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THE TIMES

SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

No. 65,248

Pay package 'absurd and insulting'

Police chief heads revolt on contracts

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

BRITAIN'S most influential chief constable is in open revolt against new terms of employment for top police officers that are being imposed by the Government.

John Hoddinott, chief constable of Hampshire and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has written to the leader of every other force to say he will refuse a new fixed-term appointment and performance-related pay because they could threaten his independence.

Mr Hoddinott says he believes that fixed-term contracts could lead to allegations of political influence and damage the public's perception of the police. Details of the letter, which has gone to 41 fellow officers, have also been passed to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

Mr Hoddinott wrote: "I joined the police out of a sense of public service... recognising the financial disadvantage in doing so. Had I wanted the principles of the marketplace, I would not have made that decision."

Like all officers, he had taken an oath to the Queen and to uphold the law: "I need no other device to ensure that I do that duty to the best of my ability. The notion that I will work harder or more effectively because of performance-related pay is absurd and objectionable, if not insulting."

Mr Hoddinott accepted that chief constables should be liable to dismissal for bad behaviour or performance, but he objected to the new formula laid down by the Home Office. In particular, he was concerned that every time officers took controversial decisions there would be suggestions they were being influenced by performance pay awards or by negotiations for a new contract.

Mr Hoddinott's letter will be an embarrassment to Mr Howard, who has toned down many of the Sheehy committee's recommendations on police pay and conditions. He has also gone put of his way to soothe police anxiety over reforms and equipment.

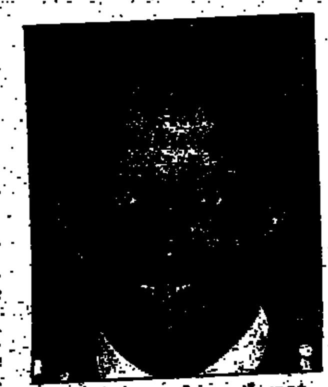
Three other chief officers are understood to be opposed to the contracts on constitutional grounds, but at least one has indicated that he will take a contract. A number of police authorities are also saying that they will not bring in the new contracts because they cannot afford them.

Under the terms of last year's Police and Magistrates Courts Act, future chief constables and their assistants will be given contracts for between four and ten years and paid according to the population of their area. They will then receive up to 7.5 per cent more, depending on their performance.

Basic pay for officers taking the appointments ranges from £60,903 to £86,988 for the head of a big urban force. Chief officers already in position may be offered fixed-term contracts or be paid from a second, lower scale of between £58,002 and £82,944.

Mr Hoddinott stands to lose up to £12,000 a year if he refuses a contract. In his letter he said: "I value the operational independence in the office of constable greatly. It will be weakened — or just as dangerous, appear to be weakened — by the fixed-term appointments, particularly as the appointment nears renewal."

At 50, Mr Hoddinott is regarded as one of the brightest of his generation of officer. he began his career in London and was responsible for cleaning up both the obscene publications and drugs squads. In 1984, he investigated possible security lapses at the Conservative Party conference when the IRA bombed the Grand Hotel in Brighton.



Hoddinott: fears threat to his independence

The Oval's Harris's Hawk which is to be given a name by the young supporters' club, "The Junior Feathers"

Teachers halt psychologists' 'thug's charter' for boy of 10

By Ben Preston
Education Correspondent

A BOY aged ten who was suspended for terrorising a school was to be allowed back into lessons under strict conditions until teachers objected.

Under a draft contract he agreed not to strike classmates more than seven times a week, not to disobey teachers more than seven times or swear at them more than three times, and not to swear at other pupils more than six times.

The proposed agreement, which would have rewarded the boy with extra time playing computer games at home, was part of a "positive behaviourial reinforcement strategy" agreed with educational psychologists. But teachers at the boy's state school in Northumberland forced a rewriting of the deal after protesting to the head that it amounted to a thug's charter.

The episode was cited by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers yesterday as it launched a campaign to protect teachers from the growing threat of attacks by pupils. The union said 16,000 assaults were reported annually and demanded that pupils with a violent history be identified to teachers under health and safety regulations.

Jared Johnson, union secretary for Ashington, Northumberland, said the boy was suspended after he refused to obey teachers 16 times in a week, swore at them seven times, hit fellow pupils 14 times and swore at them 12 times. He said the original contract was dersigned to en-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Secret weapon waits in wings at The Oval

A HAWK has been hired by The Oval to stop pigeons interrupting play. The tan coloured bird with a 3ft wingspan will start work tomorrow at Surrey's Benson and Hedges cup match against Ireland.

Pigeons are an increasing problem at the ground, where they often distract players.

☐ Bob Wyatt, England's oldest surviving Test cricketer, died yesterday aged 93. Wyatt captained Warwickshire and Worcestershire and England.

Obituary, page 21
Tributes, page 44

INSIDE

Four Caribbean honeymoons to win. Details and today's token **page 42**

Benito sat here: auctioning Mussolini's Alfa Romeo **page 6**

£3 off a WH Smith CD **Weekend, page 6**

Lawyer in sex case accused

Eileen Pembridge, the solicitor who has been accused of "outing" the Law Society's vice-president over sexual harassment, is being taken to an industrial tribunal by a former secretary alleging racial and sexual discrimination. Ms Pembridge, whose campaign for the Law Society presidency highlights women's issues, denies the claim ....Page 3

Drinking your health in herbs

The Prince of Wales has joined a swiftly growing market with his soft drinks for adults. New brands are being launched every day by companies concocting herbal brews for the dinner party as cola begins to pall ...... Page 8

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FBI arrests key suspect in Oklahoma bombing

From Martin Fletcher in Washington and Tom Rhodes in Oklahoma City

THE FBI late yesterday arrested one of the two prime suspects in Wednesday's Oklahoma City bombing, US Justice Department sources said.

The arrest in the small town of Perry, 60 miles north of Oklahoma City, came after the FBI issued composite pictures of two white men on Thursday night. It was deluged with more than 2,000 telephone calls offering numerous leads.

No details of the arrested man were immediately available, but investigators were said to be moving away from the idea that the bombing was the work of Middle East terrorists. The FBI's break came with the discovery at the bomb site of a fragment bearing the serial number of the van in which the bomb was planted.

The investigators were able to establish that the van came from Elliott's Body Shop, a Ryder rental outlet in Junction City, Kansas, 275 miles north of Oklahoma City. They were told it was rented on Monday by two men using aliases, who paid an $80 (£50) deposit but were not asked to produce drivers' licences because they looked like soldiers from a base near by.

The van was 24ft long, the largest available. Weldon Kennedy, the FBI official in charge of the investigation, said that the bomb was made of fertiliser and fuel oil and weighed "several thousand pounds", much larger than first thought. He confirmed that the FBI was studying damaged film from a surveillance camera on a nearby building, but refused to say what it showed.

The bombers' motive remains a mystery, but there was speculation that they could be white supremacists, army deserters, drug traffickers seeking retribution against the Drug Enforcement Agency, which had an office in the bombed building, or members of the Branch Davidian sect whose compound in Waco, Texas, was stormed by the FBI two years ago.

Lives torn apart, page 14

Death toll rises to 57

The official death toll from the Oklahoma blast stood at 57 last night, with more than 200 missing. Nobody has been brought out alive for more than 24 hours and rescuers, who have searched three-quarters of the wrecked building, hold out little hope of finding any more survivors.

Thatcher to receive Order of Garter

By Alan Hamilton

BARONESS THATCHER, seventh and longest-serving prime minister of the Queen's reign, is to receive the Order of the Garter, the highest decoration in the Queen's gift, Buckingham Palace announced last night.

Lady Thatcher, who said she was "deeply honoured and absolutely delighted", becomes one of the most decorated former prime ministers of the century, having already been graced with a life peerage and the exclusive Order of Merit. She joins Sir Edumand Hillary, the New Zealand mountaineer and conqueror of Everest in 1953, as one of two new members of the Garter, who will be installed at a ceremony at Windsor Castle in June.

Although not automatic, the Garter has been bestowed on most post-war prime ministers in their retirement, including Sir Winston Churchill, Earl Attlee, the Earl of Avon, Lords Wilson and Callaghan, and Sir Edward Heath. The former Harold Macmillan became instead a hereditary peer as Earl of Stockton, and Lord Home is a Knight of the Thistle, the Garter's Scottish equivalent.

Several foreign monarchs are members of the Garter, but ordinary women members were admitted only in 1987 when the Queen decided that the previously male preserve should be opened up. The first non-royal female member was Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, who was installed in 1990. Garter knights are restricted to 24 at any one time.

Lady Thatcher and Sir Edmund have taken the places of Lord Shackleton, who died last year, and Sir Cennydd Traherne, who died in January.

The order was founded by Edward III in 1348.

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Celtic Swing races to live up to 'the best' hype

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

AT around three o'clock this afternoon the racing world will hold its breath as a horse steps out at Newbury and tries to justify hype and expectation which would have embarrassed Pegasus.

Celtic Swing's exploits last season made him Britain's most dominant champion two-year-old for 60 years. Remarkably, he is only 6-1 with William Hill to complete the Triple Crown — the 2,000 Guineas, the Derby and the St Leger — a feat last achieved by Nijinsky in 1970.

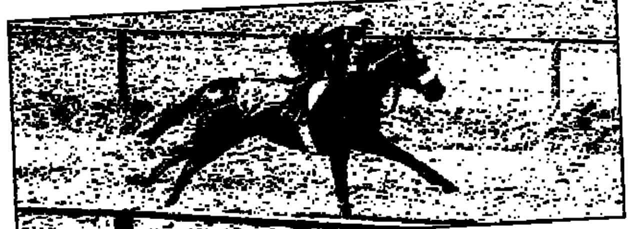
A near black colt, he ended last year retaining his unbeaten record when he won the Racing Post Trophy by 12 lengths, the widest margin in a group one race for two-year-olds in this country.

He is owned by Peter Savill and trained amid the rural splendour of Angmering Park in Sussex by Baroness Herries of Terregles. Her mother, Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk, bred Celtic Swing.

As he lines up for the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes this afternoon, even Timeform, the normally cautious racing analysts, have been caught up by the fervour that he may turn out to be one of the best horses this century. In *Racehorses of 1994*, the annual publication detailing the merits of last year's runners, they say: "If ever the words 'looks a foregone conclusion' can be justified about horse races ... then they can about the 1995 Two Thousand Guineas and Derby. If Celtic Swing keeps clear of illness and injury, we can see nothing to beat him in either race."

If Celtic Swing wins today he will be the first odds-on favourite for the 2,000 Guineas since Nijinsky. He is already 11-4 for the Derby. Mike Dillon of Ladbrokes says: "The industry's liabilities will be about £10 million if he wins the Triple Crown."

A decent slice of that will go to Mr Savill. He backed the horse for the Derby after his first win last year — at 250-1.



Celtic Swing out on the gallops at Angmering Park, Sussex

Leading article, page 19
Racing, pages 40, 41

NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

MONDAY

SPORT
Play Fantasy First XI for your chance to win £250 a week and a top prize of £10,000 in the 12-page **Times Sport**
PLUS: Matthew Parris, Libby Purves, Peter Riddell, Lynne Truss, Nigel Hawkes's science briefing on **Mind and Matter**, *and the* **Education** pages

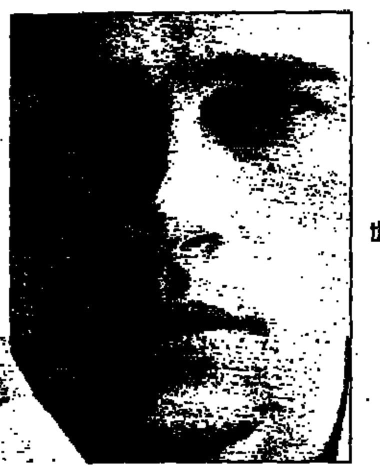
TUESDAY

HEALTH
Bulimia, binge eating and *the body* beautiful
PLUS:
Bernard Levin, Nigella Lawson, Dr Thomas Stuttaford's **Medical Briefing**, the **Law** page and **Your Own Business**

WEDNESDAY

FASHION
The summer uniform for *women* who mean business
PLUS:
Simon Jenkins, Alan Coren, Brenda Maddox on **Media**, and the **Property** pages

THURSDAY

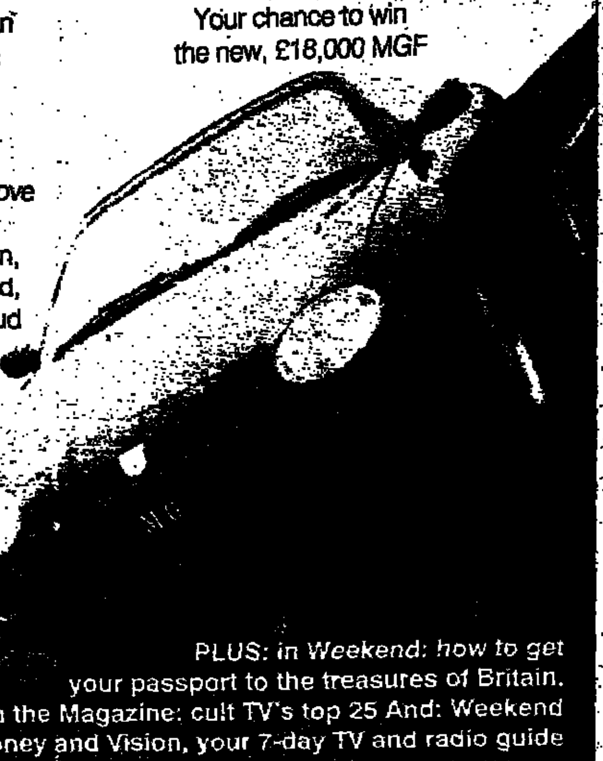


FILMS
Brad Pitt in *Legends of the Fall*, and the other films of the week
PLUS: Janet Daley, William Rees-Mogg, **Books, Travel News, Body and Mind**, the **Economic View** and the **Appointments** section

FRIDAY

POP
Caitlin Moran on modern music and musicians
PLUS:
the Valerie Grove interview, Bernard Levin, Philip Howard, Clement Freud on sport and **Infotech**

SATURDAY



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PLUS: *in Weekend*: how to get your passport to the treasures of Britain. In the Magazine: cult TV's top 25 And: Weekend Money and Vision, your 7-day TV and radio guide

THE TIMES AT 20p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS IT

Bullish Clarke shrugs off poor sales figures

By Philip Webster

Clarke: hinted at tax cut

THE Chancellor brushed aside fears that the recovery was running out of steam yesterday and signalled that disappointing borrowing and retail sales figures would not knock his tax-cutting strategy off course.

Kenneth Clarke made light of official findings that the Government overshot its borrowing forecast by £1.3 billion last year and hinted that he would be ready to put up interest rates again if necessary.

Also, as the high street sales figures showed an unexpected dip between February and March, Mr Clarke said he had deliberately damped down the economy after its 4 per cent growth last year by raising interest rates to make sure that recovery would last.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "I don't want an artificial consumer boom that will all collapse in ruins in a very short time."

Loyalists advise Major to leave Euro-rebels in exile

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

JOHN MAJOR is being advised by loyalist ministers to prolong the exile of most of the whipless Tory rebels.

The ministers are saying that, having survived four months without the rebels, Mr Major has little to gain from asking the nine MPs to return now. They were thrown out of the parliamentary party last November for defying the Government in a confidence vote on the European budget.

With *speculation about his* leadership certain to resurface in the wake of an expected drubbing in the local elections on May 4, it is argued that Mr Major would be better off with some of his strongest critics outside the parliamentary party rather than in it. Some hardline loyalists would be happy if the expulsion continued indefinitely.

Among ministers close to Mr Major there is sympathy for the idea of *bringing back two or three of the rebels* who are keen to return and who could be relied upon to back him in crucial votes. Nicholas Budgen, MP for Wolverhampton South West, Michael Carttiss, MP for Great Yarmouth, and Richard Shepherd, MP for Aldridge Brownhills, are mentioned as the most obvious contenders for recall.

The official position is that Richard Ryder, the Chief Whip, and Mr Major will decide to bring them back after an unspecified, but sustained, period in which they support the Government on all votes. The Government's official *majority has dropped to 11, with the* suspension of the two MPs involved in the cash-for-questions affair. The absence of the rebels from the fold leaves it in a technical minority.

But with Mr Major's enemies expected to mount an attempt to secure backing for a challenge to his leadership if the May 4 poll turns out to be as *bad as forecast, loyalist ministers say* there is no point in helping their cause.

Any challenge could not take place until the autumn, but Mr Major's fiercest backbench opponents are threatening privately to try to collect *the 33 signatures that would be needed* for a contest in the immediate aftermath of the elections in an effort to destabilise him.

However, the Euro-rebels would not, while deprived of the whip, be entitled to append their names to any "round-robin" being organised by the anti-Major plotters. At least half of them *are fierce personal critics of Mr Major.*

Another reason being advanced for keeping them out for the time being is that they will be convenient scapegoats when the elections see the Tories wiped off much of the local government map.

Mr Major and a posse of senior ministers will go into action on May 5 blaming party disunity for the dismal showing. *Mr Major's Cabinet colleagues will demand loyalty to him and dismiss any idea of a leadership* challenge. The existence of the rebels outside the party will be pointed to as evidence of the splits that have brought the Conservatives into such deep unpopularity.

Senior ministers are also saying that bringing the rebels back would make little difference to the Government's voting tally: back inside, they could not be relied upon to support the Government in votes on Europe, the issue that saw them expelled. But whether outside or inside they would be certain to back the Government on *any vote elevated to a confidence issue.*

A stark warning over the impact of divisions on Europe was delivered last night by a senior Tory backbencher. Sir Patrick Cormack, MP for South Staffordshire, whose constituency neighbours include three of the whipless Tories, said that if "petty quarrels" persisted the Tory parliamentary party would be reduced to a "pitiful rump" at the next election. *Division over Europe was at the root of* the party's troubles and the biggest impediment to recovery, he said.

Suspect charged with PC's murder

A man was charged last night with the murder of PC Phillip Walters, who was shot four days ago as he answered a call to a disturbance in Ilford, east London.

Bernard Laveau, 36, described as a packer and hooker, of Willesden, northwest London, is due to appear at Redbridge Magistrates' Court today.

A woman was also arrested yesterday in connection with the killing and another man is still in custody after being arrested shortly after the shooting.

Detectives are still seeking a further suspect. PC Walters, 28, was shot when he went to investigate a disturbance at a flat in Empress Avenue, a residential street in Ilford.

More soldiers leave Ulster

A further 400 soldiers were pulled out of Northern Ireland yesterday. Officers and men of the 40th Regiment Royal Artillery left RAF Aldergrove, Co Antrim, to return to Hohne, Germany, for a programme of re-equipment and training.

It was the second big withdrawal in recent weeks and means that almost 1,000 soldiers have left since the ceasefire in August. An estimated 17,500 remain.

NatWest top of company flops

The National Westminster Bank has the worst image of any company in Britain, according to an annual survey of 1,600 of the country's biggest. Railtrack was second bottom with Barclays third.

The Presswatch survey, which awards points for good coverage, also put British Rail in the bottom ten, with Eurotunnel and British Gas. The top company was BP, with Marks & Spencer second and Hanson third.

Prison escapes fall by third

The 202 escapes from prisons and prison escorts in the past year represented a fall of a third, Michael Forsyth, Home Office Minister of State, said yesterday.

He also disclosed that the number of escapes in the past six months from the Court Escort and Custody Service, operated by Group 4 and Securicor, was more than 90 per cent lower than when prison officers and police ran the service.

Spurned lover killed again

A man who has twice killed women who rejected him was jailed for life yesterday at the Old Bailey. Anthony Lewis, 50, of Burnt Oak, north London, strangled and stabbed his former lover, Marilyn Thompson, 48, last August.

He admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility. Lewis was jailed in 1988 for the manslaughter of a former girlfriend.

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Union votes nine to one for Clause 4 reform

By Philip Bassett

TONY BLAIR won a substantial boost in his campaign *to modernise* the Labour Party yesterday when the *members* of a leading union voted overwhelmingly in favour of change.

The Communication Workers' Union voted by nine to one in a ballot to support rewriting Clause Four of the party's constitution. The vote was seized upon by Mr Blair *last night as proof that*, when unions and party members have been consulted, the majority for change is huge. That is certain to be reinforced by the results of the constituency party ballots, which are expected to be released on Sunday.

***The vote*, which had been expected, increases the likelihood of a comfortable win for Mr Blair at next Saturday's special conference in London. He said: "I believe that ordinary party and trade union members support change and modernisation, and that will become clearer as the results of constituency ballots come in. The message of that will be lost on nobody, least of all a Tory party desperate to claim that the Labour leadership is out of touch with its membership."**

Down and outs given vote in council election

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

FOUR people living rough in Manchester will be able to vote in *next month's local* elections after becoming the *first of Britain's 8,000 home*less to be allowed on to the electoral roll.

Their addresses are listed as: Park bench, Piccadilly; Under the railway arches, New Wakefield Street, the railway arch, Little Peter Street; and Doorway, *Marks & Spencer*. Their polling cards will be sent to the *town hall or to any charity* they choose to nominate.

The four were registered under a pilot scheme run by Manchester City Council and *The Big Issue* magazine after a Home Office working party reported last year that "the absence of bricks and mortar" *was not a handicap for qualification* to vote.

According to the Home Office, proof of "a substantial degree of permanence" in a rough sleeping site is all the homeless need to qualify for *the vote. Encouraged by this*, staff at *The Big Issue* began contacting Manchester's homeless in February to advise them they could register and vote. Four decided to do so in time for the local elections. "A lot of homeless people are suspicious about the idea," according to Ruth Turner, the magazine's northern editor. "They feel that their votes *won't make any difference and* after being disenfranchised for so long they cannot see the point. Some were reluctant in case they were picked on. They felt it might be dangerous to advertise where they sleep.

"But we believe it is good to show that it is possible and because it draws attention in *the voters' list to the plight of* the homeless. The addresses are quite striking and when you see them printed out like that it makes people think."

Tony Cross, a spokesman for Manchester City Council, said: "If we can't give these people homes, at least we can *give them the vote*." Other local authorities, including Liverpool and Cardiff, are now keen to put the homeless on to voting lists and the Home Office is expected to bring out guidelines about *how this can best be done.*

☐ A tramp has been given a *tent beside a busy road* by council officials in Wolverhampton. The council is so concerned for the health of Fred Stawinoga, 72, that it also delivers meals on wheels.

'Thug's' charter halted

Continued from page 1

courage better behaviour when he returned to lessons. If the boy *met the conditions, his* mother agreed to allow him to *play with his computer for an* extra hour each night. But, he *added: "All hell broke loose* when the staff found out."

When he took their objections to the head, he was criticised for being "negative". Eventually the contract was changed, however, with all specific targets dropped.

Mr Johnson said: "Can you imagine the problems we would have faced if we had let that little thug back in under that contract? What would have happened when we told a parent: "We are sorry that *your daughter's skull has been* fractured but she was only the *sixth pupil that little Johnnie* hit this week?"

Mr Johnson, who refused to name the school because it *might identify the boy*, said that pupil behaviour contracts were useful but had to be practical: "You cannot condone this kind of behaviour by specifying the number of anti-social acts a child is to be allowed to carry out."

Northumberland County Council said it had no record of the draft contract and said the only acceptable target for violent behaviour was its complete *disappearance*. Chris Tipple, director of education, said: "If it appears, following further investigation, that an *inappropriate contract exists*, then psychologists will of *course be reminded* that no violent acts are acceptable, a *conclusion with which I am* certain they agree."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, said disruptive pupils were greatest single barrier to raising standards.

He said the union was concerned that it had fought 46 cases this year where teachers refused to teach a pupil whose expulsion had been overturned on appeal, compared to 40 last year.

Former secretary accuses lawyer who criticised Law Society vice-president

Woman standing for top legal post is taken to tribunal

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE woman solicitor blamed for exposing the Law Society's vice-president over sexual harassment is being taken to an industrial tribunal over alleged racial and sexual discrimination.

Eileen Pembridge, a legal aid solicitor who is standing to be the first woman president of the Law Society, faces a claim by a former secretary. Angela Kennedy, 36, of South Norwood, London, alleges sexual and racial discrimination against Ms Pembridge and the firm, Fisher Meredith, over changes to her contract of employment after eight years' service.

Ms Kennedy, who was in charge of the support staff in the firm's matrimonial department, claims she was forced into "constructive dismissal" in January this year. "We used to be given time off for dependants. I am separated and have a five-year-old son. When he's sick, I need to be off work. But the firm decided to withdraw this provision, which hits women — and the black women in the firm particularly hard."

She has lodged papers with an industrial tribunal in West Croydon and hopes to obtain a hearing later this year. "I am astonished, amazed, to see Eileen Pembridge standing for the Law Society presidency on a women's issues ticket, when her own firm treats women badly," she said.

Ms Pembridge, 51, rejected the allegations yesterday. "When we decided to revise all the contracts in the wake of the recent trade union legislation, we were extremely careful about how we did it, and took advice from the Institute of Personnel Management. We consulted widely and Ms Kennedy seems to have assumed that, because we consulted, it was going to happen."

In fact, at the end of the consultation period, the contracts were changed only slightly, she said. They still allowed for staff to take leave for dependants, but at the discretion of the firm's partners.

Ms Pembridge said: "Ms Kennedy has jumped the gun. She was simply got it wrong and this will be explained to her when the matter comes up before the hearing."

Two weeks ago, Ms Pembridge caused a stir at a conference for women lawyers when she revealed that allegations had been made to senior Law Society members that a society council member (thought to be herself) and society staff had been sexually harassed. Although she mentioned no names, the president, Charles Elly, went on to talk about a "council member". He said an inquiry had been made at the time and "action was taken".

It was an open secret that that member was John Young, deputy vice-president. Days later he announced his withdrawal from the forthcoming elections for president.

Yesterday Mr Young sent a letter to all council members saying he did not blame Ms Pembridge for what had happened, which had come about because of inaccurate press reporting, and he accepted she had not intended his withdrawal.

Rumours of the allegations have been circulating in the Law Society for some time but the timing of Ms Pembridge's disclosure shocked a number of council members.

Ms Pembridge has been widely criticised for "outing" Mr Young, particularly by her rival in the presidential election, Martin Mears, a Great Yarmouth solicitor, who has said Ms Pembridge was "obsessed with sexual harassment".

John Young was forced to step down after allegations of harassment by Eileen Pembridge

DES JENSON

Angela Kennedy, a former secretary who claims sexual discrimination

Man jailed for hitting doctor in smoking row

By Richard Duce

AN ALGERIAN asylum seeker was jailed for 21 months yesterday for assaulting a doctor who asked him to stop smoking on the London Underground.

Judge Sich told Abeey Dikes, 29: "Courts have a duty to try to protect innocent members of the public going about their normal business on the Underground and unless courts take a very firm view of wholly unprovoked violence of this kind then they are failing in their duty."

However, the judge did not make a recommendation that Dikes, who married a British citizen last week, be deported in spite of a prosecution request that he do so. Any deportation decision will rest with the Home Secretary.

Dr Jonathan France, 25, was kicked and punched unconscious after his wife Elizabeth saw Dikes lighting up at Manor House station in north London. His injuries left him incapable of work for six months and unable to recall the incident. He was assaulted while on his way to Heathrow Airport to join a medical expedition to Mount Everest to evaluate loss of balance at high altitude.

The couple had been married for only two months and the incident led Dr France and his wife to leave London to start a new life in Yorkshire.

He received cuts to his face, four broken teeth and a broken nose, a ruptured disc in his back and severe concussion. His injuries had stopped him mountaineering and running. The judge said Mrs France blamed herself for the attack but she should in no way feel responsible for the "senseless and totally unreasonable violence".

At Dikes's trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court in March it was said that Dr France intervened when his wife was told: "Shut up, bitch." Dr France was then attacked by Dikes and another man, who cannot be named for legal reasons and who will be dealt with at a later date.

Dikes was convicted of affray and assault and appeared in court yesterday for sentence. The judge jailed him for 12 months for the first offence and 21 months on the second, the terms to run concurrently.

The judge told Dikes, of Bounds Green, north London: "This offence, though extremely serious, was not preplanned but something that flared up at that moment and I don't think this is a case where I should make a recommendation for deportation."

Neither Dr France nor his wife were in court yesterday but after Dikes's conviction he said the attack had changed his views. "There is a fine line between being a good citizen and being too good a citizen. I have advised members of my family not to act as I did under similar circumstances."

Solicitor jailed for insurance swindle

A SOLICITOR who helped to fake his friend's death was jailed for three years yesterday. The deception was exposed when the supposedly dead man was seen eating a pub lunch with his "widow".

Anthony Hackett-Jones, 52, a lawyer and experienced sailor, sailed with his friends Russell and Patricia Causley from Hamble, Hampshire, to Guernsey on October 20, 1993.

Their yacht arrived at St Peter Port the next day and Causley was not on board, Southwark Crown Court was told. Mrs Causley, 37, was screaming that her husband had fallen overboard. Hackett-Jones raised the alarm, prompting a £20,000 air-sea search in atrocious conditions ten miles southwest of the island.

The plot was hatched to pay off the Causleys' debts. Causley had life insurance policies worth £770,000.

Hackett-Jones was found guilty of conspiring to defraud insurance companies. The Causleys, of Ardingly, West Sussex, admitted the same charge. Causley was jailed for two years and his wife was given 12 months suspended.

Earl and countess to live separately on Althorp estate

By Alan Hamilton

EARL SPENCER, younger brother of the Princess of Wales, is to live separately from his wife after only six years of marriage, it emerged yesterday.

Countess Spencer, 29, the former fashion model Victoria Lockwood, is currently being treated at an addiction clinic in Surrey for alcoholism and anorexia nervosa. When she comes out, probably in two months, she will live apart from her husband and their four children in a house on the family estate at Althorp, Northamptonshire.

A spokesman for Lord Spencer said that a house on the Althorp estate would be made available to the countess, so the couple's children could be near both parents. The earl's solicitors refused to make any further comment on the issue yesterday. The earl went to ground to avoid questioning.

Lord Spencer, 30, who assumed the title and the family estate on the death of his father in 1992, recently disclosed his wife's condition in an interview with ITN. Irritated by tabloid newspaper speculation on the state of his marriage, he said that his wife had been troubled by eating disorders for ten years. He added that he had finally persuaded her to have proper treatment at the Surrey clinic, and confessed that she had "serious psychological problems".

The couple married in 1989 after a romance lasting barely six weeks. Within two years Lord Spencer, who works as a journalist in the London bureau of the American NBC television network, had confessed to an affair with another journalist.

The couple are understood to have agreed that both should have free access to their children when Lady Spencer is released from the clinic at Ockley, Surrey.

Lord Spencer has lodged formal complaints with the Press Complaints Commission against the *News of the World*, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, alleging harassment of his wife during her treatment at the addiction clinic.

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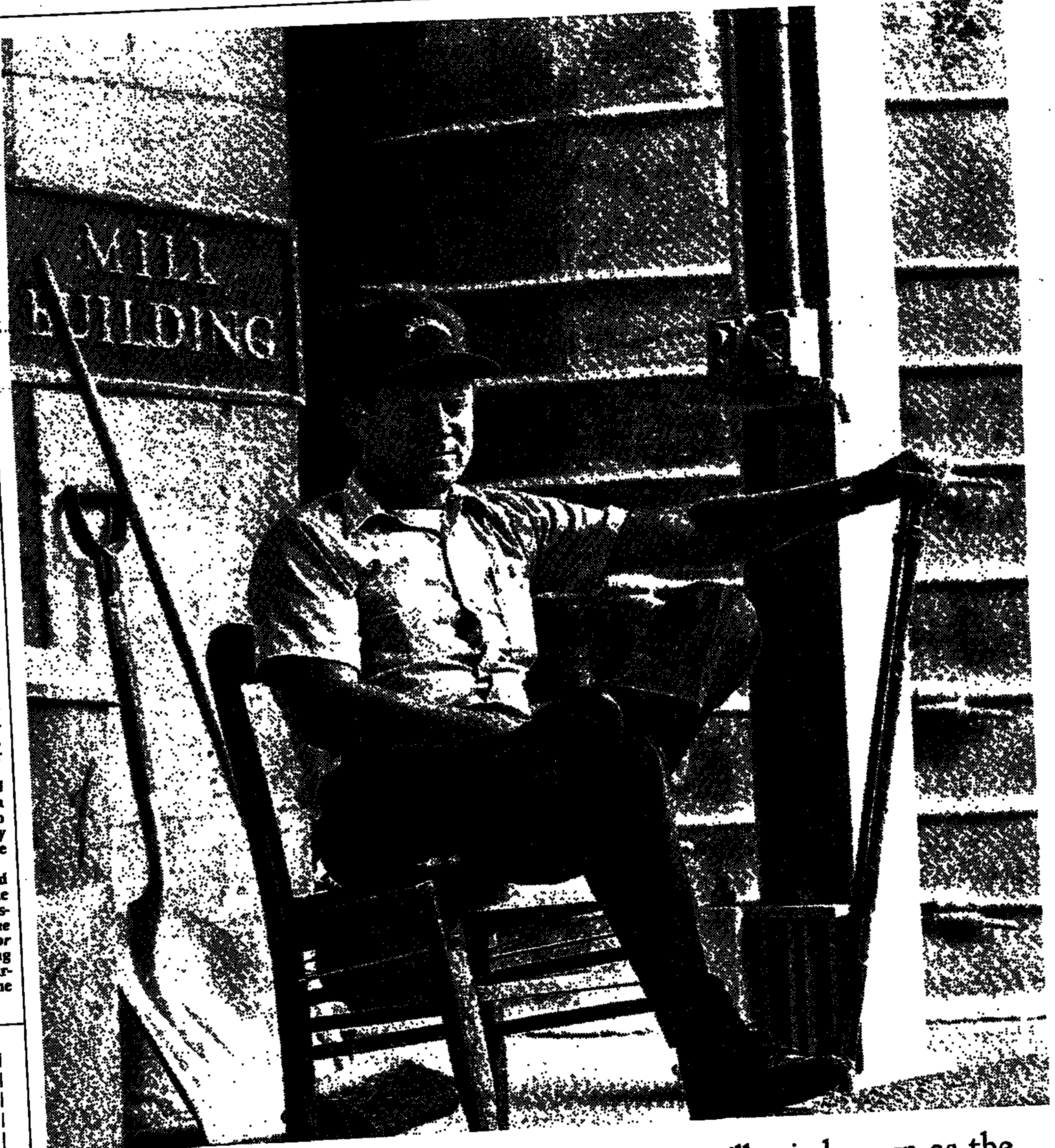

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Rail reliability falls in run-up to privatisation

Watts: improvement on way

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE Government's rail privatisation programme encountered a fresh setback yesterday when it emerged that train delays and cancellations have soared on many lines since the break-up of British Rail began last year.

Figures disclosed by BR show that levels of reliability fell on two thirds of the network during the 12 months to the end of March.

BR blamed last summer's four-month signal workers' strike and the disruption caused by the Government's highly controversial reorganisation of Britain's railways for the drop in standards. "Everything has been distorted by the dispute," a spokesman said. "You should see some pretty dramatic improvements next year." Last month 75 per cent of train lines reached standards above the annual average, he said.

On ten lines, mainly in the North West, Scotland and Wales, the deterioration was so bad that it triggered discounts for season ticket holders under the Citizen's Charter. Two train operators, one in Manchester and one in Avon, failed to reach minimum standards for either the number of delays or the number of cancelled trains.

Service also deteriorated on many commuter lines in the South East, where large investment programmes are placing huge strains on the ability of local management to provide a reliable service.

The Northampton lines saw the percentage of trains cancelled rise from 0.5 per cent to 1.7 per cent, while the London, Tilbury and Southend line reported that the proportion of its services delayed by more than 5 minutes rose from 8.2 per cent to 12.9 per cent.

John Watts, the railways minister, rushed to defend the performance of the railways, claiming that the hold-ups were the result of record levels of investment.

"We have a massive programme of investment in new signalling and upgrading of the line and, rather as we find when we set about improving our houses, there is some short-term discomfort for longer-term benefit," he said on Radio 4. "The management of all the train operating companies are committed to improving services, the Government is committed to improving services and everyone is concentrating to ensure that the exacting targets for reliability and punctuality are met by more lines."

Privatisation began in earnest in April last year when Railtrack, the company responsible for maintaining the lines and signalling, was hived off from British Rail in preparation for a stock market flotation. Since then, British Rail passenger services have been run by 25 separate units, the bulk of which are expected to be auctioned to the private sector by next April.

Opposition parties seized on the figures as conclusive evidence that privatisation is turning into a disaster.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "These shocking figures show the true costs of privatisation. They show that as British Rail is carved up ready for the sell-off, passengers face fare rises, service cuts, delays and declining standards. When will the Government face this simple truth?"

For the Liberal Democrats, Paul Tyler said privatisation was holding up much needed investment in the railways. "The resulting delays are serious enough. Ministers will not be able to wash their hands of responsibility if the accident risk increases too," he said.

Sierra Leone captives were threatened with execution

Radio chats with rebels help police free Britons

By Bill Frost

SCOTLAND YARD negotiators were praised yesterday for their role in winning freedom for six British hostages held by rebel forces in Sierra Leone.

One of the victims, who hopes to return home on Monday, has told his wife how the captives were threatened with execution.

The Foreign Office revealed yesterday that over the months the officers took turns in pairs to advise on tactics, to liaise with aid agencies and to speak to the rebels by radio. Patience paid off on Thursday when the Britons were released unharmed on the border with Guinea.

The Foreign Office turned to Scotland Yard for help when Calum Murray, 25, from the Isle of Lewis and Robert D'Cruz, 30, a Londoner working for Voluntary Service Overseas, were seized last November. James Westwood and Ross Milne, who worked for a mining company in Sierra Leone, were captured on January 18. Two days later, Andrew Young and Peter White, who were employed by a local engineering firm, also became hostages.

Last night the six arrived in Conakry, Guinea's capital, after a gruelling journey from the border. Among those who welcomed them were two of the Scotland Yard officers.

A Foreign Office spokesman said there were no meetings with the guerrillas. "All the contact was made over the HF radio. It was a long, difficult and painstaking process."

Mr White's wife was yesterday "delirious with joy" at his release. Lesley White said: "I've spoken to Peter in Guinea and his voice is a bit croaky, but otherwise he's fine. I told him 'I love you' and that he should just catch any plane home he could."

Mr White told his wife that he and other hostages were threatened with execution and marched round a series of remote camps by the Revolutionary United Front. Mrs White said that he told her: "I've had an interesting and fulfilling experience. Don't worry, I'll explain everything. I'll see you soon."

Calum Murray's MP, Calum Macdonald, Labour member for the Western Isles, visited the Yard's special incident room several times and listened as the negotiators made radio contact with the rebels. He said yesterday: "On a map on the wall they chartered Calum's every movement, even what he was eating and his psychological state. Having regular contact with the Scotland Yard officers reassured him and helped him through. The officers quickly established a rapport with the rebels, which was crucial. In the end they were on Christian-name terms, and I believe that this rapport finally persuaded the rebels to release Calum.

"The officers persuaded them it was futile to hang on to him. They were the major reason why he is free now."

Mr Murray's brother Iain, 27, and his sister Karen, 17, were yesterday planning to come to London to await his return. They hope that he will be fit enough to travel tomorrow.

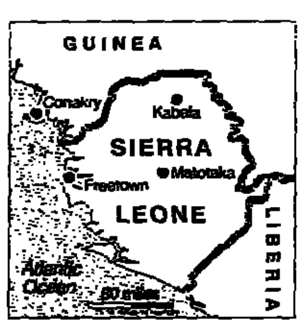
The police team, all specialist negotiators, was led by Commander Roy Ramm, the head of SO1, the Yard's International and Organised Crime Branch, and one of his deputies, Detective Superintendent Mike Dickson.

Commander Ramm said: "I am delighted that the six Britons held in Sierra Leone have been released. I would like to pay tribute to my officers who have worked extremely hard alongside the other agencies and groups involved in negotiating the release."

The hostages are being looked after by Red Cross volunteers. "We have a doctor and nurse accompanying them," a spokesman in Geneva said. "From what we heard yesterday, their state of health seems to be satisfactory.

"They are very tired, exhausted, that's for sure."

Commander Gamm led Sierra Leone negotiators



Bridget Cunningham hanging pigs' tails on the line and giving a Nazi salute

Jewish family abused by neighbours wins £8,000

By Kathryn Knight

Danny Israel and his wife Ann after the court case

A JEWISH family who suffered five years of abuse from their neighbours were awarded £8,000 in damages yesterday.

Bridget Cunningham hung pigs' tails from the washing line of Danny Israel, 48, a photographer, and his two young daughters were sprayed with weedkiller in a dispute which began with an argument about a garden fence, Brentford County Court, west London, was told. Awarding costs and an injunction against Mrs Cunningham, 61, Judge Oppenheimer said it was "the most acrimonious dispute between neighbours that I have ever seen".

The dispute between Mrs Cunningham, who lives with her brothers Robert and Peter Bodsworth, began shortly after Mr Israel moved into his semi-detached home in September 1990. Mr Israel rebuilt a 6ft fence which separated his house from the Cunninghams', but in 1992 Mrs Cunningham took Mr Israel to court to force him to remove it.

Mr Israel counter-claimed in June 1994 and sought an injunction against Mrs Cunningham and her brothers. He was successful, but had his victory set aside when a judge declared a mistrial.

During the latest hearing, the court was told that members of the Cunningham family had sprayed weedkiller at Clare Israel, 11, and her sister Frances, 9, and shouted anti-Semitic abuse at them from their back garden.

Summing up, Judge Oppenheimer said that Mr Israel had been spat at by his neighbours, and told to "go back where you come from".

Outside the court Mr Israel said: "My daughters have spent a large part of their formative years being intimidated. It really is sad to see such old people setting such an appalling example to children."

Appeal to bring back 2-minute silence

A campaign will be launched this weekend to bring back the nationwide two-minute silence to remember the victims of war. The British Legion hopes that the public will honour the silence at 1,000 locations at the first opportunity: the VE-Day anniversary on May 8.

The Legion ultimately hopes that the silence will be respected in all 40,000 parishes nationwide. "There was a time when traffic came to a halt right around the country, people in the streets stopped and stood still," one Legion official said. "That has been eroded over the years."

Father accused

A man was remanded in custody by Mid-Staffordshire magistrates accused of murdering his three babies. Simon Smith, 26, was accused last year of murdering a daughter. Yesterday he was charged with murdering another daughter and a son.

Pulpit restored

The priest-in-charge at St Luke's Church in Heage, Derbyshire, has been ordered by a consistory court to return a 19th-century pulpit after a campaign by parishioners. The Rev David Rymer had said the pulpit was redundant and hoped to sell it.

Rape charge PC

A police officer has been charged with rape after allegations made by a 15-year-old girl, the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday. The officer, believed to be a 32-year-old PC with the Lancashire force, has been suspended from duty.

Murder unsolved

Police told an inquest in Bradford that they were no closer to finding the killer of Amy Shepherd, 86, a spinster who was found strangled and stabbed through the neck in her flat in the city eight months ago. The hearing was adjourned.

Detectives return

Avon and Somerset Police has restored the title of detective, scrapped two years ago to end rivalry between CID and uniformed sections. The force reversed its decision after complaints from the public, who wanted "proper detectives" investigating crime.

Deer rescued

Lifeboatmen rescued a wild deer that had become trapped in water inside a cave near Brixham, Devon. One of the rescuers swam into the cave, tied a rope around the animal and others pulled it on to the boat. It was later returned to the wild.

£286,000 organ

A chamber organ designed by the 18th-century architect Robert Adam, which had been used to accompany hymns at Lindisfarne College near Wrexham, Clwyd, was sold for £286,000 to the National Museum and Galleries of Wales at a Phillips sale.

Sculptor's model trapped in plaster cast

By Kathryn Knight

A DRAMA student had to be hammered free from a plaster cast when a sculptor trying to make a mould of his torso used an industrial-strength mix by mistake.

It took three firemen, two ambulancemen and a team of nurses nearly five hours to release Paul Fifield, 19, after Kate Freeland, an art student, covered him from neck to thigh in wall plaster instead of plaster of Paris. He lost most of his body hair as the cast was chipped off.

Mr Fifield, of Girton, Cambridge, said: "Kate had read a book on how to make a mould, but I don't think she got further than the preface. When the plaster set the idea was that I should just flex my muscles and break out of it, but it was unbreakable. We read the packet afterwards and it said that it was industrial plaster and that skin must be washed immediately if it comes into contact."

Miss Freeland, 18, a student at the Slade School of Art in London, is now doing the sculpture without a model.

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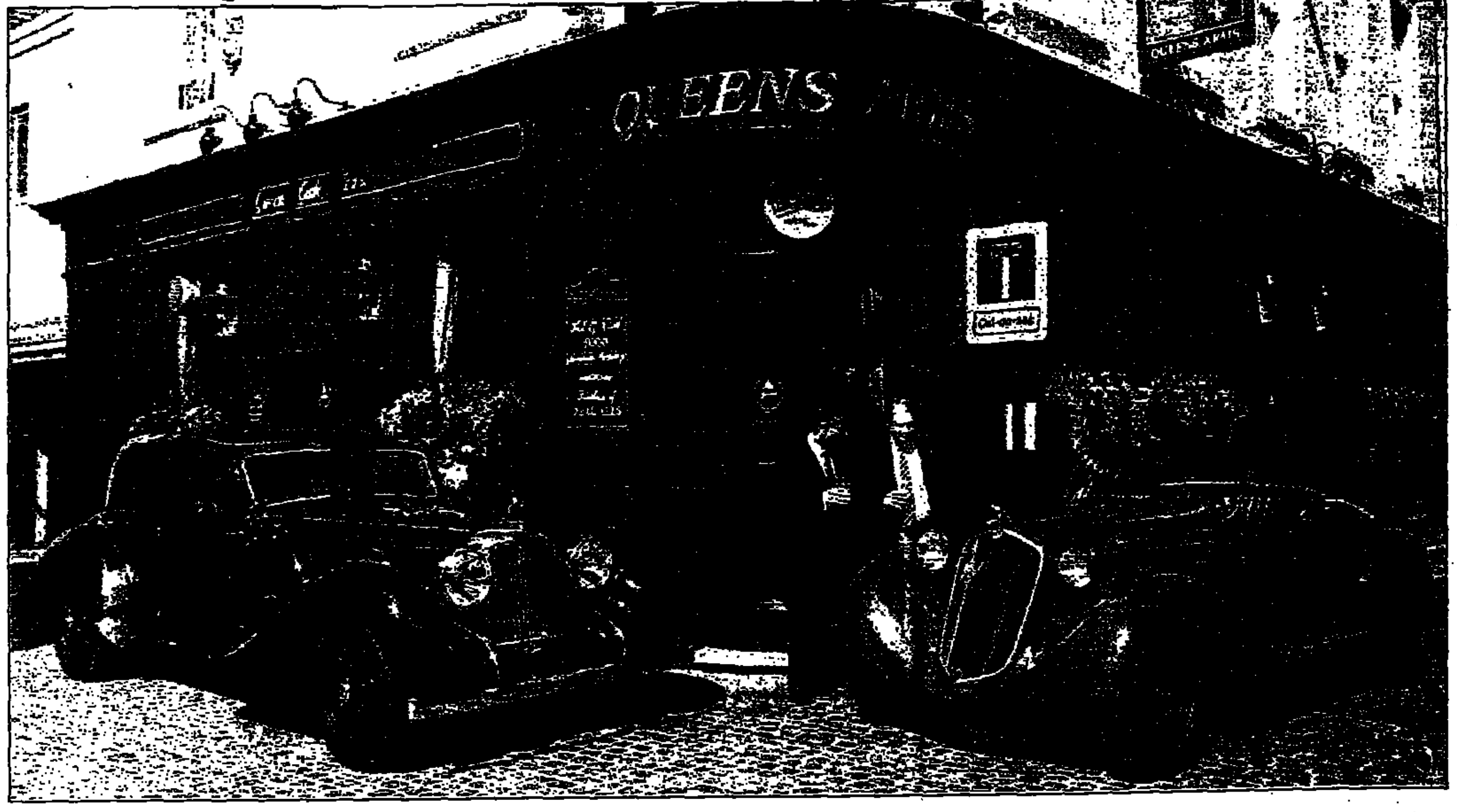
Lagonda limousine and Alfa-Romeo sports car once owned by war leaders could fetch £275,000

Mussolini's motor likely to upstage Churchill sale

By Kevin Eason
and Eric Dymock



Mussolini touring the Ligurian Riviera in the Alfa in 1935 with his Blackshirt bodyguards. Right, the cars to be sold in London next month

THE Alfa-Romeo sports car on which the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini lavished loving care and the Lagonda V12 that Churchill used to inspect bomb damage in the East End of London will be sold in London next month.

The Lagonda, a factory demonstration model that was also used by George VI, has spent most of its life in the United States, where it was known to the American Lagonda Club as The Churchill Car. It will be offered for private sale at £125,000 but Mussolini's 1935 Alfa-Romeo 6C 2300, which has his name on the logbook, could fetch as much as £150,000.

The logbook shows that the original owner took a personal interest in his favourite runabout in spite of more pressing matters. Mussolini was keen on glamorous, open-bodied models. The car, his eighth Alfa, was registered in August 1935, only three months before Italy invaded Abyssinia, where Emperor Haile Selassie vowed to fight the Italian army to the last man.

The registration document, numbered 47820 of the Reale Automobile Club d'Italia, confirms that the car's first owner was Cavaliere Benito Mussolini of Roma. The Alfa, to be sold by Coys of Kensington on May 11 at Chiswick House in west London, is a reminder of the heady days before the Second World War when cars were treated by leaders such as Hitler and Mussolini as proof of their technological superiority. Unfortunately, the world's reaction to the Abyssinia invasion almost halted Mussolini's ambitions for his motor industry.

He had entered his Alfa in the 1936 Mille Miglia, the legendary 1,000-mile race across Italy, from Brescia over the Appennines to Florence and Rome and back. The race attracted entrants from around the world and Mussolini was anxious to see an Italian car home first, preferably his Alfa.

But economic sanctions imposed by the League of Nations cut off supplies of petrol, forcing Il Duce to call on his people to search for a range of alternative fuels that could power the nation's Fiats and Alfas. That also meant that the Mille Miglia race cars had to use alternative fuels, such as charcoal gas or alcohol.

To show that he was leading the nation from the front, Mussolini sent his car back to Alfa's factory for modifications allowing it to run on alcohol from a small tank behind the front seats. Unfortunately, the car did not run well on alcohol and what Il Duce did not tell his people was that the petrol tank was still fitted — and full.

Mussolini's chauffeur, Ercole Boratto, was ordered to drive in the Mille Miglia and was told about the secret petrol, which could be pumped into the engine by means of a small tap hidden under the dashboard. As soon as he was out of sight of crowds and the rest of the field, Boratto turned the tap to get extra power from the petrol denied the rest of the competitors.

However, although Boratto was excellent at driving slowly along wide streets with Mussolini standing at his side waving, he was not so good at handling the car at speed on the twisting race circuit. Even with Il Duce's help, the Alfa could manage no better than thirteenth place.

The tap is still on the car. The original windscreen has been restored, replacing a small one that Mussolini — a short man — had fitted so he could be seen to full advantage while crowds showered him with flowers.

After Mussolini's death, the Alfa disappeared until the 1960s when it was discovered in the film studios of Cinecitta, known as Rome's Hollywood. The car was dusty and faded and the wheels and some parts were missing but these have been tracked down over the past 25 years by a determined owner, who wishes to remain anonymous. The radiator shutters still work smoothly, the controls and plumbing for the hydraulic shock absorbers and other mechanical parts work almost as well as when Mussolini's hapless chauffeur was racing around Italy in the Mille Miglia. However, it is that name in the original logbook which will probably double the value of the Alfa at auction.

Simon Kidston, of Coys, said yesterday that the car was the only one of Mussolini's Alfas to survive and probably the only car of any of the war leaders to have their name on the registration documents.

He added: "It is a wonderful find because there is much history attached to it."

Car 95, special section

Wakeham promises to censure rogue editors

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

LORD WAKEHAM, the new chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, announced details yesterday of his campaign for defending newspapers against those "baying" for statutory controls.

In a robust defence of press self-regulation, the former Tory Cabinet Minister, who became chairman on January 1, also announced four new appointments to the commission's board to strengthen its public standing.

Speaking to the Scottish Press Fund, he gave details of the "Wakeham Contract with the Press". This would be based on working "harder than ever before" to build up the confidence of public and politicians in media self-regulation.

There were signs that this was already happening, he said. Since the beginning of the year complaints to the commission had increased by more than a third, indicating that ordinary people did believe it was effective.

But, Lord Wakeham said, vigilance was needed: "Every time there is a high-profile story in one of the newspapers which raises genuine issues, the pontification of some broadcast journalists and the baying in the ranks of illiberal liberals calling for privacy legislation is as predictable as night following day."

To counter this, the commission needed to deal with every complaint calmly and consistently without giving instant reactions to the media. His comment is a veiled reference to his predecessor, Lord McGregor of Durris, who made public pronouncements on alleged privacy intrusion by the press before complaints had been investigated. The commission also needed to ensure that editors did not flout the industry's code by defending stories as being in the public interest when they did not involve issues of genuine concern to the public. "The commission will be stinging in its criticism of such editors."

Lord Wakeham said that the main board, which deals with complaints, now had a majority of lay members. The four new members are Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, widow of the Labour leader John Smith, Lady Browne-Wilkinson, a senior partner at the London solicitors Charles Russell, Sir Brian Cubbon, a former Permanent Secretary at the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office, and Lord Tordoff, a former Liberal Democrat Chief Whip in the House of Lords.

All four new members have been approved by the commission's appointments board, which itself has two new members.

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Nine crew died in Channel fireball when ships flouted fog rules, inquiry reports

Captain in tanker crash was awake for 23 hours

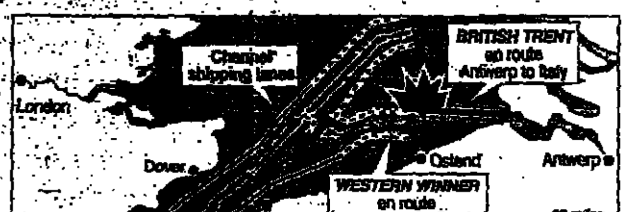
BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE master of a BP petrol tanker that caught fire in the English Channel after a collision had not slept for 23 hours, an official investigation said yesterday.

Nine crew members died when the *British Trent* was hit by the Hong Kong-owned bulk carrier *Western Winner* in thick fog off Ostend in June 1993. Both vessels were registered under flags of convenience.

A fireball ignited by the collision forced the *British Trent* crew to jump into the sea where they were engulfed by choking black smoke from burning oil. Twenty of the *British Trent* crew were rescued. The *Western Winner* crew suffered no injuries.

In a highly critical report, officials from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch said both vessels had broken basic international shipping rules for travelling in fog. The *Western Winner*, registered in Panama, had been going too fast and had failed to keep an adequate look-out. The Bermuda-registered *British Trent* had failed to make proper use of her radar and had wrongly assumed that the other ship would react to the danger of collision.


Channel shipping lanes
BRITISH TRENT en route Antwerp to Italy
London
Dover
Ostend
Antwerp
Calais
WESTERN WINNER en route London to Holland
10 miles

The report said that the judgment of both masters may have been affected by fatigue and stress. Stanley Montagu, the captain of the *British Trent*, had been awake throughout the 23 hours leading up to the collision at 5.30am. He had been working on the bridge for 11 hours. Gang Dae-Pung, master of the 30,000-tonne *Western Winner*, had only three hours' rest before being called to the bridge at 4.30am. "It is not a satisfactory situation that ships' masters and other seafarers should be either expected, or allowed, to put to sea when they are not fully rested," the report said.

"There are regulations which govern the hours of work and rest of those employed in road, rail and air transport. It is considered to be in the interest of safety at sea that seafarers' hours of work and rest should be subject to regulation."

The report said that firefighting was impossible on the *British Trent* because the main fire pumps had not been turned on and were knocked out of action by the collision. "The ability to start the fire pumps from the bridge would have saved time and reduced the risk to the crew members, who showed courage and determination in attempting to get them started."

The 25,000-tonne *British Trent* was on her way from Antwerp to Fiumicino in Italy. The *Western Winner*, part loaded with copper dross, was going from London to Vlissingen in The Netherlands. The accident happened in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. The investigators said that the Bermudan shipping authorities should ask Belgium and The Netherlands to get world shipping authorities to improve safety in the area.

In December 1993 her captain and the owners, Liberia-based Alpha Beta Investments, were charged with manslaughter by the prosecutor's office in Bruges.

The captain has failed to appear at several hearings and another is due next month. Inquests on four Britons who died will be held at Poole, Dorset, next month.

The BP petrol tanker *British Trent* failed to make proper use of her radar

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Apocalypse now

The suicide of his daughter Cheyenne has devastated Marlon Brando — but how much responsibility must he take for her death . . ?

Peter Manso, Brando's biographer, tells the story of a doomed relationship. Only in The Sunday Times, tomorrow

Master's sea view blocked by cargo

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

A FREIGHTER has been ordered to stay in dock in Southampton after her captain sailed 9,000 miles with his view blocked by fairground equipment piled up on the ship's deck.

The German skipper was forced to rely on radar and instructions from crew in an observation post to navigate the 2,729 tonne *Edda* from Bangkok to the Solent. She was returning fairground rides and games packed in lorries to Britain after a fair had finished a tour of Thailand and Malaysia.

Marine Safety Agency officials boarded the Bahamian-registered ship on Thursday after being tipped off by the pilot who steered her into Southampton docks. The pilot had to sail a mile ahead to be seen from the *Edda's* bridge.

Johannes Biedermann, the *Edda's* captain, denied the vessel had been a hazard: "We have an observation deck and from there we can see ahead and we have very good radar."

A marine safety expert said: "What the captain was doing was the equivalent to driving a car with your hands over your eyes and relying on instructions from the passenger."

Irish ban waste ship bound for Sellafield

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Irish Government yesterday banned a ship bound for the Sellafield nuclear waste reprocessing plant in Cumbria. The *City of Manchester* had been due to dock at Dublin next week en route to Sellafield with a cargo of uranium ore concentrate from Portugal.

Eamon Gilmore, the Irish marine minister, said the action had been taken in line with government policy. In Dublin, the move was seen as a hardening official attitude towards Sellafield.

Last month Mr Gilmore said fresh consideration was being given to the possibility of legal action over the Thorp reprocessing plant near Sellafield. That development followed an Irish High Court ruling that four residents from Dundalk, Co Louth, could take court action against the Thorp scheme.

The residents based their action on claims that people living on Ireland's east coast are subject to hazardous emissions of poisonous materials. Previously, successive Irish Governments had been advised there were insufficient grounds for new legal moves over Sellafield.

THE TIMES

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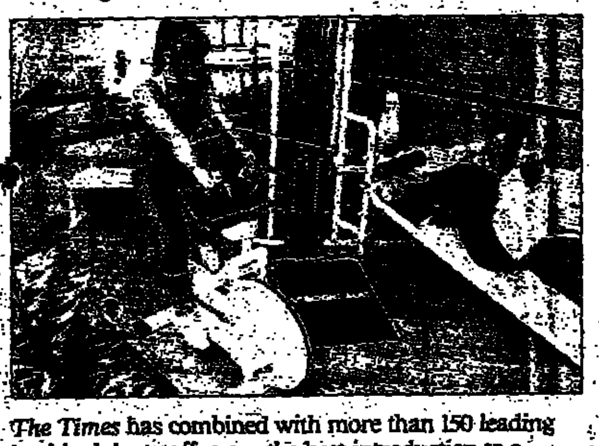

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THE TIMES

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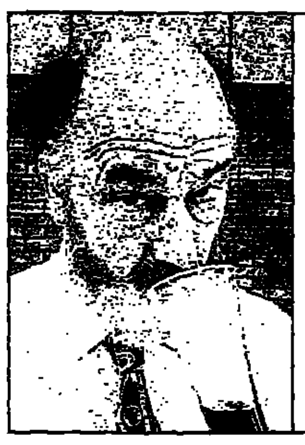
Health-conscious adults forsake cola and alcohol for a subtle combination of herbs and hokum

New Age elixirs restore sparkle to drinks trade

THE adult soft-drinks market is growing rapidly as British *adults suffer the effects of* cola fatigue. The Prince of Wales is among the newest players in an increasingly complex market, worth more than £600 million a year and in which new brands are being *launched at a rate of more* than one a day.

The launch last month of the *Duchy* of Cornwall's Duchy Originals Numbers 1 and 3, designed as dinner-party substitutes for red and white wine *and made with fruit juices and* herbs, will be followed shortly by the arrival from America of *Oasis, a still fruit drink* promised to "calm and rejuvenate", and Schizan, a herb-based sparkler *which is claimed* to deliver "refreshment to the senses".

They will jostle on the shelves alongside such oddballs as Purdey's, a gingery *"elixir vitae"* in a grenade-shaped bottle: Aqua Libra, which the publicity claims "helps to restore alkaline balance": *Amé, Kiri and Miro,* *"the sparkle of summer"*. The ingredients on many of these so-called New Age drinks reads like a witches' brew. Gentian, mill thistle, centaury, damiana, schizandra, bayberry, feverfew, dock, alehoof and prickly ash bark all feature alongside the almost ubiquitous ginseng.



Robin Young reports on a healthy future for the adult soft-drinks market and samples some of the leading brands, many of whose ingredients read more like the recipe for a witches' brew

Old favourites have been repackaged to catch the new trend, including Lucozade Sport, Lucozade NRG, and Ribena *ready-mixed with* spring water. Newcomers include the many exotically titled *formulas of Snapple,* a brand of iced teas flavoured with fruit juices, invented in New York by two former window cleaners and a health store proprietor. Their company, Snapple Beverage, was bought by Quaker Oats last year for $1.7 billion.

The brand, having been *test-marketed successfully in* the London area since last year, is now being rolled out across Britain. *It already has* home-grown competitors such as Liptonice, sparkling iced lemon tea in a can, which Brooke Bond spent £2 million developing and hired Angus Deayton to advertise.

The drinks command premium prices, though often their background is more mundane than it might appear. Aqua Libra, which costs as much as cheap wine, is "based on a Swiss recipe", *but was actually developed,* like Bailey's Irish Cream and Malibu liqueurs, by Grand *Metropolitan's drinks division* in Essex.

The brand has since been *sold to what is now a leader in* the sector, Orchid Drinks. Orchid, whose own brands *included Amé, Monsoon and* Jive, at the same time bought Purdey's, Dexter's (a "low-calorie hypotonic sports drink") and Norfolk Punch ("a blend of 30 herbal extracts discovered by the ancient *monks* of Upwell"). Rob Shotton, Orchid's managing director, says: "All our research indicates there are tremendous opportunities to develop new drinks for the adult soft-drinks market, which we expect to grow briskly through the Nineties.

"Very few soft drinks have been specifically designed for adults, yet they already consume over half the total produced. That consumption will increase as people become more concerned about health and the risks of alcohol consumption."

But the cola companies, who admit "cola fatigue among the 20-35 age *group", are hitting* back. Coca-Cola will soon launch Fruitopia, a range of *fruit-based soft drinks with* rather extravagant names such as Psychic Lemonade and Citric *Consciousness.* Pepsi-Cola is working on ready-to-drink iced coffees in bottles and cans.

New York already has the world's first "textural modified beverage": a carbonated fruit-juice base with bits of fruit and jelly floating in it.

Leading article, page 19

ADRIAN BROOKS

New brands of soft drinks are being launched at the rate of more than one a day with ever more exotic titles

From light and fruity to sweet and medicinal

By Robin Young

THE following are *marks* out of ten for a selection of adult soft drinks.

Amé Red: £1.95 for 750ml. Like a mild and fizzy elderberry wine, made from underripe elderberries. 5.

Amé White: £1.95 for 750ml. Flavour of apricots with a light sparkle. Refreshing and pleasing when chilled. 7.

Amé Rose: £1.95 for 750ml. *An impression of marshmallows* and rose water. Very feminine, but more palatable than most rosé *wine.* 4.

Aqua Libra Original: £1.99 for 750ml bottle or 69p for 250ml can. Repulsive taste of rotting melons. The label's claim, "clean tasting", should be an offence under the *Trade Descriptions Act.* 0.

Duchy Originals No 1: £2.50 for 750ml. Raspberryish, not oversweet, but somewhat medicinal. 5.

Duchy Originals No 3: £2.50 for 750ml. Cakey scent *of rosemary and spices, and a* taste of mulled apple juice. 4.

Liptonice Light: 36p for 330ml can. Reconstituted lemon juice. Instant tea. Aspartame. What do you expect? Only for people who would take *sugar* in lemon tea. The injunction "serve ice cold" is to be taken seriously because it is not at all pleasant otherwise. 1.

Lucozade Sport: 36p for 330ml can. "Isotonic for fast fluid replacement — great *thirst-quenching taste."* Water would work as well, and not have that chemical flavour of artificial oranges. 2.

Lucozade NRG: *49p* for 250ml bottle. A sparkling orange and passion-fruit crush, with added "flavourings". Sweet, chemical and about as fruity as a boiled sweet. 3.

Rio Riva Light Tropical: 29p for 330ml can. Includes 10 per cent orange, guava, apricot, mango and passion-fruit juices, but the aspartame is right over the top. 2.

Purdey's: £1.15 for 250ml. Taste of dried herbs past their sell-by date, ginger, lemon and soap. If this is the elixir of life, excuse me while I expire. 1.

Original Norfolk Punch: *£2.99 for 680ml bottle.* Medicinal in a herby, spicy way, with cloves, grape extract and muscovado sugar the most noticeable of more than 30 ingredients listed. An acceptable non-alcoholic alternative to punch *that really* does have a punch. 7.

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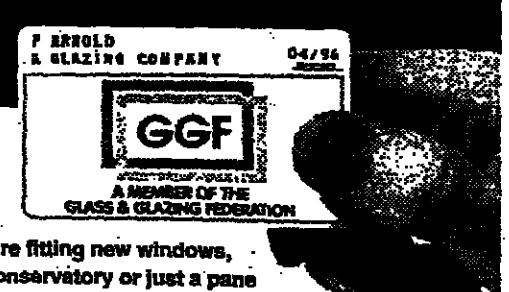

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Alan Clark condemns police over 'foul trade'

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

ALAN CLARK, the former Defence Minister, joined a dwindling band of animal rights protesters at Dover yesterday and harangued police escorting livestock lorries into the docks.

Mr Clark watched in impotent fury as seven lorries swept past about 60 demonstrators. At one point he was ordered by the police to step back behind a steel crush barrier.

"What the hell do you think you are doing? Do you have no shame whatever in the task you are performing?" Mr Clark yelled at one officer. "This isn't law enforcement. It's not crime prevention. You are simply protecting the profits of a lot of people in the livestock industry.

"My wife Jane is in tears over this. She has seen sheep stuffed into lorries and it is most distressing. Police whinge on about resources but does it take about 400 police to protect a few lorries. It's a foul trade and all the police are doing is enforcing it. It's a complete waste of money and time. It is simply overkill."

Mr Clark, a veteran animal welfare campaigner, was one of the first people to criticise cross-Channel ferry companies for carrying livestock. The three biggest firms, P&O, Stena Sealink and Brittany Ferries, stopped taking farm animals, except for breeding, last autumn.

The lorries rolled into the Eastern Docks just before 11am. Three of the trucks, all carrying sheep, were turned back at the quayside by Ministry of Agriculture officials. "One of the trucks had too many sheep in it, and in the the other two the animals had insufficient headroom," the ministry said.

The remaining four lorries, carrying a total of 600 calves and 300 sheep, drove on to the *Cap Canaille*, a roll-on, roll-off freight ferry, and sailed for Dunkirk just after noon. It was the second livestock shipment since the High Court ordered Dover Harbour Board to lift its ban on such trade, imposed on January 6.

Another livestock freighter, the *Northern Cruiser*, chartered by International Traders Ferry, which has been sailing out of Shoreham, West Sussex, is to undergo berthing trials in Dover today. This is the first move by other exporters to switch to the Kent port, which offers by far the most direct route across the Channel.

At Brightlingsea in Essex, five livestock trucks, one carrying calves and four sheep, were loaded for shipment to Belgium with little fuss, despite the presence of 250 demonstrators and in marked contrast to the disorder in the small port on Thursday. The police reported four arrests.

The 170 police on duty came with riot helmets, which have a reinforced plastic visor, as a precaution against a repeat of the previous day's violence, when demonstrators hurled a variety of missiles, including stones, bottles, cans and chemical-filled eggs. But, in the event, the police did not need to put on the headgear.

MALCOLM GANDERTON

Mr Clark talks to animal rights protesters at Dover

Only by bringing the past alive can we be sure to keep our future free

Jonathan Sacks

FOR the past week, Jews have been observing the Passover, the festival of freedom. At its heart is the Seder service, at which we gather in our extended families and retell the Biblical story of the Exodus: the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt and their eventual liberation.

It is a ritual that has never lost its power to capture the imagination. For this is no mere recitation of events that happened long ago and far away. We do not so much tell the story as re-enact it. We eat the unleavened bread which the Israelites ate in their hurry to leave. We taste the bitter herbs of slavery. We drink four cups of the wine of freedom. It is as if we were there.

Credo

Nowhere is this more dramatically focused than in the opening words of the service: "This is the bread of affliction which our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt." At this point, past and present come together in a defiance of the normal categories of time. The Seder service is not so much recollection as reactualisation.

The Jews have a history longer and more remarkable than most. They were the first to find God in history and to see in the flow of time no mere random sequence of events but a coherent narrative. Paul Johnson notes that "no people has ever insisted more firmly than the Jews that history has a purpose and humanity a destiny".

It is therefore all the more striking that classical Hebrew has no word for history. When modern Hebrew searched for such a word, it borrowed it (as did English) from the Greek and came up with *historiah*. Judaism was organised around something other than history. Its key word was *memory*.

Perhaps the simplest way of describing the difference is this. History is what happened to someone else. Memory is what happened to me. Memory is history internalised, the past made present to those who relive it. Through personal identification with the great moments of the past, they become part of what makes us who we are. We become characters in a continuing story which began before we were born and will continue after we have ceased to be. In this sense, Passover is the festival in which history becomes memory.

The result is that the story of the Exodus continued, through successive generations, to move people to strive for freedom. A hundred years ago it moved Theodor Herzl to envision a return of Jews to their Biblical homeland. Fifty-two years ago it moved the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto to make a defiant stand against a Nazi regime built on the denial of freedom. That is the power of memory when it is kept alive.

That, too, is the importance of the act of remembering in which we will engage as a nation when we recall the fiftieth anniversary of VE-Day. If we are to cherish freedom and to guard it, we must remind a new generation of the alternative: the bread of affliction and the bitter herbs of slavery. Children must learn how European freedom was fought for and painfully won: not in vengeance nor in hate, but simply to know what matters enough to need constant vigilance. Memory is our best guardian of liberty.

☐ *Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi*

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

Councils to assess needs of 7m carers

By Victoria Walker

THE MILLIONS of unpaid carers who look after the sick, old and disabled could receive more help from local authorities after a Commons vote yesterday.

A private member's Bill that will oblige town halls to channel more money to people who care for members of their family without at present receiving help from social services passed its final Commons hurdle with the backing of all sides. The Carers (Recognition and Services) Bill, sponsored by Malcolm Wicks, Labour MP for Croydon North West, is likely to pass through the Lords unopposed and become law by the autumn.

During yesterday's debate, Mr Wicks said it was no longer good enough to "pat carers on the back and tell them they're doing a wonderful job". Nearly seven million carers save the country an estimated £30 billion a year.

Nature site bought to block housing

By Nick Nuttall

A COUNCIL has compulsorily purchased a nature site for the first time to protect it from property developers.

The firm had tried for five years to build a housing estate at Royate Hill, two miles from the centre of Bristol and home to badgers and rare plants. The development was opposed by the council and the plans were rejected by the Environment Secretary four years ago after a public inquiry. But nearly a year later contractors employed by the developers, Beechgold, arrived to clear the site. They were only halted by a court injunction.

Avon County Council then said it wanted to designate Royate Hill a Local Nature Reserve and served a compulsory purchase order in December 1993 but the developers objected. Yesterday John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, upheld the council's order.

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Scientists create gene vaccine to kill malaria

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SCIENTISTS at Oxford have created a potential vaccine against malaria, the scourge that kills more than a million children a year in Africa.

The development, by a team at the Institute of Molecular Medicine at Oxford, was based on the observation that some people inherit genes that give them protection against the disease. Those genes appear to confer on their lucky recipients a much more efficient system for provoking into action the killer cells that attack the malaria parasite at an early stage in the infection.

The genes are those involved in the determination of tissue type — the form of matching used to work out the compatibility of transplanted organs. People with the tissue type known as HLA-B53 have a 40 per cent lower chance of developing the more severe forms of malaria. Only 1 per cent of Europeans possess it, explaining why malaria was such a problem to the Empire builders, but 40 per cent of Nigerians do.

Dr Adrian Hill and colleagues at the institute argued that this cell-based form of resistance to infection might be more effective than vaccines designed to stimulate antibodies.

One such vaccine, developed by the Colombian scientist Dr Manuel Patarroyo, has achieved some success, protecting about 30 per cent of those injected with it in trials. But the natural course of the disease shows that antibodies cannot eliminate malaria entirely. People with the disease have high antibody levels, but do not clear their bodies of infection.

Four years ago the team reported that people possessing the malaria-resistant gene appeared to attack the parasite at an early stage, when it is proliferating in the liver. They have now identified the peptides, components of proteins, that stimulate the killer cells and have devised a way of incorporating them into yeast cells to form a vaccine.

Dr Hill says that he is optimistic that a vaccine based on those peptides will be useful against malaria. "What is very encouraging is that almost all these components are the same in all strains of parasite that have been tested. So the difference between parasite strians should not be a problem."

British Biotech, an Oxford-based company, is collaborating with the group to produce the yeast-based vaccine. In this week's edition of *The Lancet*, the team reports that in children with malaria in Gambia, and also in semi-immune adults, the levels of the killer cells were low, "suggesting that boosting these low levels by immunisation might provide substantial or even complete protection against infection and disease".

Such a vaccine is urgently needed. With control of the mosquito, which carries the parasite, failing in many parts of the world, malaria remains a major threat. Drugs exist to treat the disease — including quinine, the basis of tonic water — but the parasite has developed resistance to some of them.

Malaria has been known from earliest times, and devastating epidemics have been credited by some with contributing to the decline of the Roman Empire. As ague, it was common in medieval England, and still quite common in marshy places in the 19th century. Today the risk comes from increased travel, which exposes vulnerable Europeans to infections picked up abroad.

In 1993, 1,922 cases of malaria were reported in Britain, with visitors ot Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya accounting for the greatest number of cases. In 1993 and 1994 combined, 14 Britons died of malaria.

Coxswain Brian Bevan at the wheel of the Humber lifeboat. The seven-man crew is the only one employed full-time by the RNLI. Photograph: Chris Harris

Fundraisers push boat out for Humber crew

By Paul Wilkinson

FOR almost two centuries there has been a lifeboat station at Spurn Point, watching over the busy but turbulent waters where the Humber meets the North Sea. That Brian Bevan, the coxswain, is the most decorated lifeboatman in the service is testament not only to his bravery but also to the dangers of one of the country's most congested coasts.

The Humber crew is the only one employed full-time by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, mainly because of the isolated location of its station, which was established in 1810. Seven crew, six to man the boat and a reserve to cover the one day off a week they are allowed, live with their families in a row of cottages on the southerly fragment of Yorkshire's coastline.

Their hamlet is reached by an asphalt strip on a mile-long causeway, occasionally washed away in winter storms. Only concrete sea defences prevent their home from becoming an island.

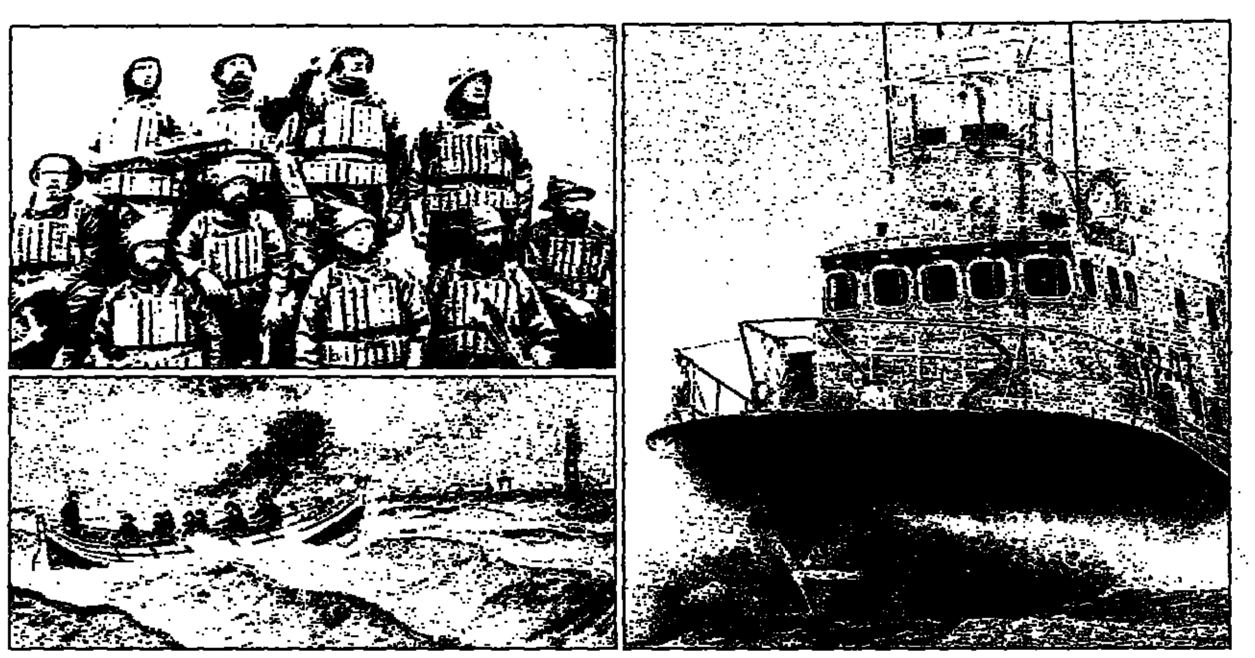
Christine Goodall, the RNLI's north-eastern regional organiser, said: "Really they have given their lives to the service, but there is no shortage of people coming forward to do the job. Like most lifeboatmen they are intensely modest about what they do, but they are all very dedicated and brave.

"Brian Bevan, for instance was given gold, silver and bronze awards for rescues all in one year." He is credited with what the RNLI describes as "one of the most daring and brilliantly executed" rescues in its history.

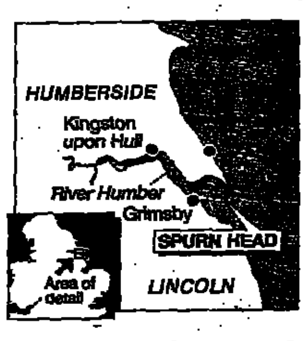
In 1979 his crew took six seamen off the freighter *Revi* at night during a violent storm. Mr Bevan had to run his craft into the ship's side for the men to leap across. He recalls how after the last one jumped he turned away to light a cigarette. When he turned back the ship had vanished.

The RNLI is raising money for a new 17-metre fast-response boat but is still £500,000 short of its target of £1.35 million. Mrs Goodall said: "Things have gone quite well so far, but it is always the last bit which is the hardest. Our branches are running extra events to find money for the new boat."

Donations have ranged from a £200,000 bequest from a woman whose only connection was that she lived by the sea at Cleethorpes, to a few pounds from pensioners. One woman gave £1,000 in memory of her brother who died at sea in the war. Each week since fundraising began last February the appeal headquarters in Hull has received an anonymous brown envelope containing three Scottish pound notes.



Changing face during 185 years of the Humber lifeboat: from oars and brawn to sophisticated rescue vessels



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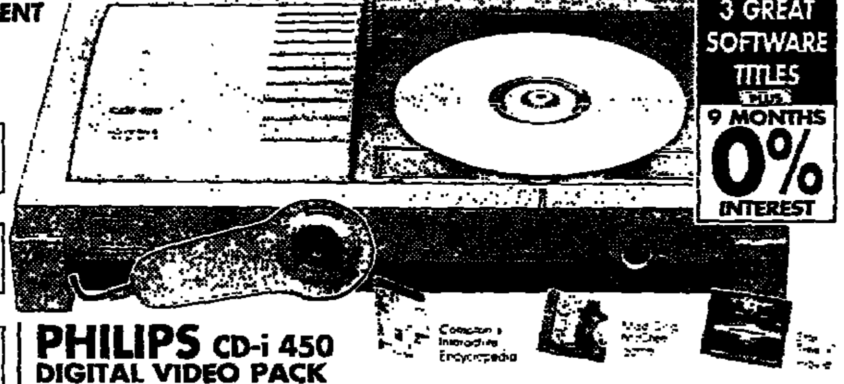

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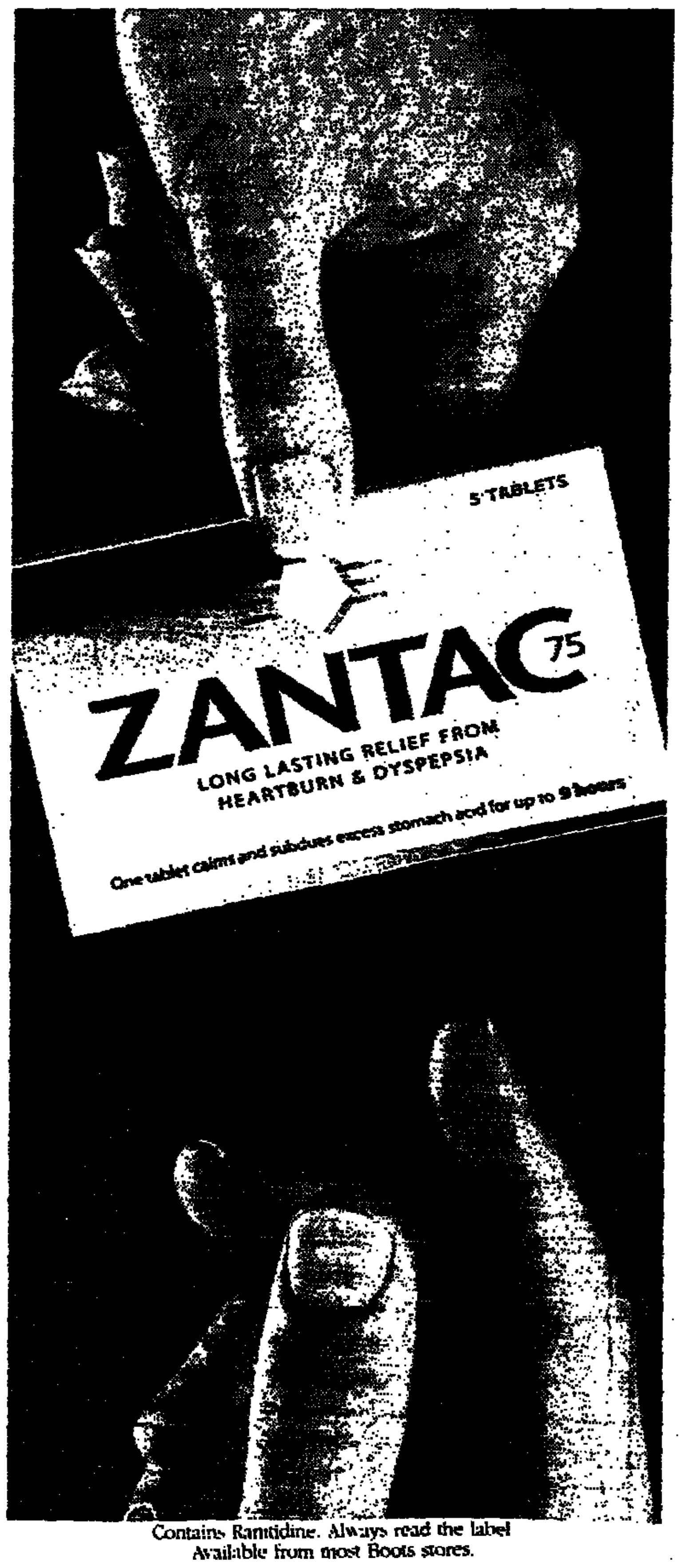

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Every step of the Way is recorded for posterity

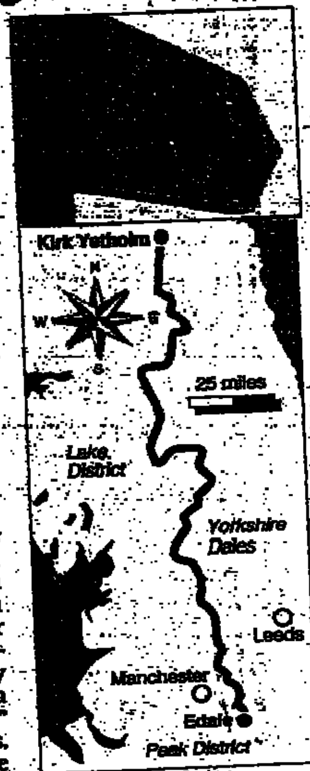
By Kate Alderson

DETAILS have been recorded of every step, stile and gate along the 256 miles of the Pennine Way, which is 30 years old on Monday, to ensure the vulnerable footpath survives into the next century.

Finance permitting, the data will be computerised to help conservation workers to plan a rolling programme of maintenance from Edale in the Peak District to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish borders.

The Pennine Way, a tough and wild walk along the backbone of England, was the first official long-distance footpath to be created in Britain, and opened after a 30-year campaign by Tom Stephenson, a famous walker and secretary of the Ramblers' Assocation for many years. Stephenson's vision was of a "long, green trail" winding across the moors, fells and valleys of the Pennines.

His idea harnessed the spirit of an age in which hill walking was enjoying great popularity; by the outbreak of war a Pennine Way Association was formed, which began to lobby for the route.



Since it officially opened, hundreds of thousands of walkers have stomped along the most popular parts of the path. The damage they have caused, aggravated by nature, prompted a big repair project, started in 1989 by the Countryside Commission.

The Pennine Way Co-ordination Project, which has cost £3 million and involves about a hundred workers at any one time, will end next year after successfully halting damage that many walkers thought was irreparable.

Anne Glover is the project's assistant co-ordinator. She said: "We have managed to put right most of the hideous erosion and the remainder, mostly in the Peak District, will be carried out this summer. A lot of people think the Pennine Way is just one big boggy mess, but most of it is actually in very good shape.

"It is important that we plan the next phase and work out how we will maintain the most famous long-distance footpath in the country."

Rangers from the seven separate highways authorities and the three national parks are responsible for the upkeep of the Pennine Way and regularly collect information on the condition of the route.

"However, this information is not centrally held," Ms Glover said. "We plan to have a co-ordinated databank which we can then computerise, funding permitting."

A generation of walkers has faced the challenge of Pen-y-ghent, North Yorkshire, at 2,273ft a high point of the Pennine Way

The computerised Pennine Way would be based on information collected in two complete surveys of the route, one carried out five years ago and the other last summer. It would be updated with rangers' inspections and be a "living computerised replica" of the changing footpath. Detailed conservation work could then be accurately planned into the future.

"Each section of the path is graded by us and we have detail on how worn, how wide and how trampled it is," Ms Glover said. "We know what each style is made from."

There are no thirtieth anniversary celebrations, although thousands of walkers will be on the Way this weekend, paying their tribute to Stephenson's vision. Every year 10,000 walkers complete the route, while tens of thousands more tackle sections.

☐ A fossil deposit 250 million years old has been scorched by fire and ruined by graffiti in an attack of vandalism (Paul Wilkinson writes). The pure limestone walls of Byer's Hole near Whitburn on south Tyneside contain the remains of early microscopic creatures. Peter Collins of the National Trust, which administers the site, said it had been obliterated by smoke and slogans.

Letters, page 19

Mink invasion poses threat to countryside

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

AMERICAN mink, descendants of animals imported from the United States 75 years ago for fur farming, have colonised most of Britain and are preying on native wildlife ill-equipped to deal with the invader.

In four decades, the population of mink living in the wild has grown to 110,000, according to the first complete census of British mammals. They outnumber the native otter, another member of the weasel family for which they are often mistaken, by 15 to one.

Escapes of mink occurred almost immediately after being brought to Britain in 1920 but made little impact until after the Second World War when the number of mink farms grew dramatically. During the 1970s and 1980s, fur sales slumped under the influence of animal rights campaigns, bankrupting hundreds of small-scale mink farmers, many of whom turned their stock into the countryside.

Andrew Robathan, Tory MP for Blaby, considers the mink to be such a danger to native fauna that he presented a private member's Bill to the Commons at the end of last month to eradicate it from Britain. "They are rapidly destroying the water vole population, as well as having a significant effect on game and coarse fishing," he told MPs.

But Nigel Dunstone, a zoologist at Durham University who has studied mink for 20 years, thinks Mr Robathan is being over cautious. "The mink certainly has an adaptable diet and will eat a wide range of prey, but the water vole seems to be the only animal seriously affected," he said. "Even in the case of the vole, loss of suitable riverside habitat has probably contributed as much to its decline."

Dr Dunstone believes the mink population may now have stopped growing or even be declining, particularly where otters are making a comeback.

There is no dispute that mink can be a serious local threat. On Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Western Isles Council have set up a mink control group to stop the creatures spreading.

There is a precedent for eradicating an alien. During the 1980s, Ministry of Agriculture trappers succeeded in extirpating the coypu, a large rodent of South American origin which was also introduced to Britain earlier this century for its fur. But the coypu was largely confined to East Anglia, making it an easier target.

Morris-Gosling, director of the Institute of Zoology at London Zoo, is one of the few experts who think eradication of the much more widespread mink could be achieved, but would probably cost up to £20 million. "But as a first step, more research is needed into the impact mink is having on native wildlife," he said.

Most ecologists, however, think the mink is here to stay, like that other American immigrant, the grey squirrel.

The American mink

Aliens that came and colonised

OVER the centuries many exotic species of animal have been imported to Britain, but it only quite recently that the ecological dangers have been recognised. Releasing alien species into the wild is now prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

Rabbit *(Oryctolagus cuniculus)*: introduced by Normans in 12th century. At first farmed in managed warrens for fur and meat. Became widespread in countryside in 18th and 19th century. A menace to farmers but rabbit grazing helped to preserve chalk grassland and heathland. Now about 37 million, a third of pre-myxomatosis level. Eats £100 million of farm crops a year.

Canada goose *(Branta canadensis)*: introduced in 17th century as ornamental bird. Notorious for carpet bombing of parks, golf courses and lakesides with huge volumes of corrosive excreta capable of breaking up asphalt paths. At least 60,000 and growing.

Grey squirrel *(Sciurus carolinensis)*: introduced towards end of last century. More adaptable, and better at finding food, than native red squirrel, which it has displaced from most of England. Now more than 2.5 million, compared with 160,000 reds.

Muntjac deer *(Muntiacus reevesi)*: small deer. Native of China. Introduced in 1894 to Woburn Park. Population in wild now 40,000 and growing fast, mainly in southern England. Threat to young woodland and woodland flowers.

Ruddy duck *(Oxyura jamaicensis)*: imported in 1948 by Sir Peter Scott for his wildfowl centre. Escaped into wild in 1950s. Little problem here. But some have crossed the Channel and are inter-breeding with the much rarer, white-headed duck, which is in danger of being "hybridised" into extinction.

New Zealand flatworm *(Artioposthia triangulata)*: probably hitched a ride here on imported plant in 1960s. First found in Scotland. Now also in northern England and Wales. Eats the native earthworm, which drains and ventilates soil and is food for many birds and mammals. The flatworm is inedible.

Outdoors, Weekend, page 17

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Agony aunt confronts own professional problems over conflict of interest accusations

Minister told to quit or sever ties with Fiat

ROME FILE

by JOHN PHILLIPS

ITALIAN feminists rejoiced when Susanna Agnelli became the country's first woman Foreign Minister 100 days ago. Signora Agnelli, who is 73 on Monday, has kept up her many philanthropic interests despite her official duties. Every week, for example, "Suni" puts aside diplomacy to reply to contributors to her agony column in the magazine *Oggi*.

Paolo from Rome seeks advice about his fiancée who has returned to Croatia and wants to end their engagement. "Don't see her again." Signora Agnelli advises. "Keep the memory of a very beautiful story that lasted only ten months."

Lilliana from Genoa does not want to buy a new dress for the wedding of a cousin but her mother insists she should impress their relative's future mother-in-law.

"What does your cousin's mother-in-law care about your wardrobe?" Signora Agnelli asks. "Dress as you like. I am sure you will be elegant."

"Anonymous" from Novara writes: "I am 65, with a married son and a marriage practically finished. I am in love with someone else of my age, who will not succumb to this feeling because she says that we are committing a sin. How can I convince her that in old age these scruples should not exist?" Signora Agnelli replies: "She is perfectly right. The wrong to your wife would be even worse now, precisely because of your age."

Not everyone is happy with the enhanced influence of the agony aunt. Enrico La Loggia, the chief whip of the Forza Italia party, accuses the Foreign Minister of a conflict of interest because of her shares in the holding company that controls Fiat, the industrial empire run by her brother Gianni, who is seen as the uncrowned king of Italy. Parliament is examining a Bill to force Silvio Berlusconi, the Forza Italia leader and former Prime Minister, to sell his television channels or place them in an American-style trust. "If the law comes into force immediately, Susanna Agnelli will have to decide whether to resign or sell her stake in Fiat," Signor La Loggia says. The press sniggered when she began an official Latin American tour with a visit to Argentina, where her son, Cristiano Rattazzi, has extensive business interests and where a £370 million Fiat plant is expected to be built. Signora Agnelli has indicated that she will step down before Italy assumes the chairmanship of the European Union next year. Then she can devote more time to the woes of the readers of *Oggi*, which belongs to the Rizzoli publishing empire which is controlled by her brother.

Susanna Agnelli, whose appointment was applauded by Italian feminists, with her grandson

Murmurs about meeting

Antonio Di Pietro, the magistrate who launched Italy's anti-corruption crackdown three years ago, admitted yesterday that he has held a secret meeting with Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, fuelling speculation that the popular former policeman will join the media tycoon's Freedom Alliance. Judge Di Pietro continues to deny, however, that he has political ambitions.

Time flies for 'baby' reborn

WHEN Cristina Lanzoni endured nine months of complete isolation in an underground chamber, she said she felt she was in the womb and was ready to be born again: a little prematurely, as far as she was concerned.

Signora Lanzoni, 29, entered the chamber, known as Underlab, in the Frasassi caves in central Italy on July 26 last year for a scientific experiment to monitor the effects of total isolation. Her lonely 269 days ended this week when the project controllers sent her a message on a computer link telling her the date and the time. "Oh my God," she replied. She had thought it was October 31, 1994.

Scientists said Signora Lanzoni abandoned adult sleep patterns in Underlab, adopting those of a new-born infant which falls immediately into deep sleep. She was due to return to the surface late last night.

Berlusconi pins hopes on local elections

By John Phillips

SILVIO BERLUSCONI's expectations that he will win control of 13 of the 15 Italian regions holding elections tomorrow are likely to be dashed. The polls are the first such measure of the national mood since Signor Berlusconi, the media tycoon, resigned as Prime Minister last year after he was placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.

Only a right-wing landslide would be likely to persuade President Scalfaro to call a general election before the summer, but most observers looking at private polls commissioned by Signor Berlusconi believe his Freedom Alliance will win control in no more than nine regions.

In that case, the head of state would be unlikely to call a general election before the autumn. Lamberto Dini, the technocrat Prime Minister, will be watching the outcome closely to see whether his Cabinet can survive until December before Italy takes over the chairmanship of the European Union.

Voting is being held in every region except those with special autonomous statutes — Val d'Aosta, Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sicily and Sardinia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pyramid sales chief on trial

Cluj: The head of the Caritas pyramid investment scheme, which collapsed after taking at least £625 million from more than four million Romanians, appeared in court yesterday on fraud charges.

Ion Stoica, once hailed by Romanians as a "saviour", faces up to 20 years in jail. His trial is the first of several into the scheme. *(Reuter)*

Hitler riots

Bonn: More than 60 German neo-Nazis were arrested in riots marking the 50th anniversary of Hitler's last birthday, police said. Earlier, 27 rioters were arrested in Nuremberg. *(Reuter)*

Inquiry closed

Oslo: Norwegian police are closing their inquiry into the shooting of Salman Rushdie's publisher, William Nygard, after failing to find conclusive evidence of a link to Iran. *(Reuter)*

Skiers rescued

Moscow: Eight members of the Russian women's skiing team, Metelitsa, bound for the North Pole, were safely evacuated after they found themselves on a drifting ice floe, it was reported. *(AP)*

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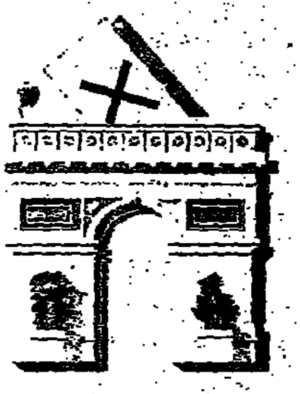
Chirac prays for classic showdown with Left

From Charles Bremner in Paris



FRENCH ELECTION

FRANCE starts ringing down the curtain on the Mitterrand era tomorrow when voters pick two presidential contenders. Attention is focused on the battle for second place between Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister, and Lionel Jospin, the Socialist.

Private polls in recent days have shown Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader and Paris Mayor holding his lead, with about 26 per cent, while M Balladur has drawn almost level with M Jospin at about 20 per cent. However, after the most unpredictable campaign in the 30-year history of the modern presidency, no candidate was banking on the outcome. The contest will end with a May 7 run-off.

Relatively strong scores are expected for two of the six "protest" candidates. Jean-Marie Le Pen of the far-Right National Front is rating about 14 per cent and Robert Hue, leader of the largely unreformed French Communist Party, could reach 10 per cent.

M Chirac, 62, whose dynamic campaign marks an extraordinary return from the political wilderness, appealed to supporters at a closing rally at Vincennes: "Nothing is decided. Right up to the last minute, we must convince those who are hesitating."

The record level of last-minute indecision, put at 20 per cent by polls, reflects a sense of disillusion with all the main candidates in a race that has neglected the grand issues beloved of French politics. Most glaringly, consensus over deeper European union has kept the topic beyond debate. "The campaign which we have just witnessed will be meagre help for guiding the next President into the new millennium," the left-leaning *Le Monde* said yesterday.

The initial shape of a Chirac presidency, if it comes about, will be heavily dictated by the choice of challenger tomorrow. He is praying that his opponent is M Jospin. The run-off would then become a classic Left-Right duel of the kind seen in every campaign except 1969 and which was won in 1981 and 1988 by President Mitterrand.

Polls suggest that M Chirac would cruise home, if only because France is in no mood for a Socialist after the long and sorry twilight of the Mitterrand years. M Chirac could then rally the Right and start healing the wounds inflicted by the Balladur rebellion.

Leading article, page 19

Jacques Chirac, left, face to face with his Gaullist presidential rival, Edouard Balladur, at a Paris ceremony where the ashes of Pierre and Marie Curie, the pioneer radiologists, were transferred to the Panthéon

Power with ill defined limits

From Adam Sage in Paris

THE most coveted post in French politics is also one of the most poorly defined. What powers does the President have? When can he intervene? Where does his role finish and the Prime Minister's begin?

Almost 40 years after the fifth republic was created, these questions are still the subject of fierce debate, with commentators and academics agreeing on only one thing: practice and theory do not coincide.

Written in 1958, the constitution was designed to end the Italian-style turbulence of the fourth republic and to enable Charles de Gaulle to impose stability on a worried nation. The presidency was no longer symbolic, but was meant to be limited in scope. As commander-in-chief of the armed forces and guardian of the national interest, de Gaulle was handed the authority to resolve the Algerian war.

On domestic issues, the constitution appeared to marginalise the Elysée. The Prime Minister would be appointed by the President to "direct the policy of the nation". Meanwhile, the head of state "ensures by his arbitration the regular functioning of the organs of government".

De Gaulle was not a man to be marginalised. From the start he tended to intervene where and when he liked, a tendency that was greatly boosted by the decision to elect him by universal sufferage instead of the electoral college used until 1965. The first presidential election that year gave the general uncontested legitimacy, establishing his ascendency over his Prime Ministers.

His successors, the Gaullist Georges Pompidou, the centrist Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and socialist President Mitterrand, have effectively acted as heads of government. Commentators do not expect the next President to be any different.

UN chief 'to back troop cuts' in Croatia

From Reuter in New York

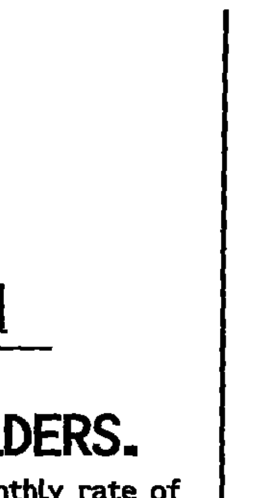
THE United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, was reported to be due last night to recommend a plan to cut the number of UN troops in Croatia from 12,000 to 8,750.

Dr Boutros Ghali, who had failed to win approval from the Zagreb Government and rebel Serbs on where the troops should be deployed, said the Security Council had no option but to adopt the plan. He said "the alternative to its adoption would be the withdrawal of UN forces and the resumption of war".

The Security Council changed the name and duties of the UN contingent on March 31 after President Tudjman of Croatia threatened to evict all UN troops. The mandate was, however, left deliberately vague, with instructions for UN officials to negotiate key details.

The report also proposes for the first time that UN forces in Croatia monitor the "human rights of individuals and communities".

In Germany yesterday, an extradition order was approved for Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb, paving the way for him to become the first defendant at an international war-crimes tribunal since the aftermath of the Second World War. Tadic, 38, is accused of killing, raping, beating and torturing Croats and Muslims during Serb "ethnic cleansing" of Bosnia's Prijedor region.



Tadic: accused of "ethnic cleansing"

Green's feminist passions given a cool reception

From Joanna Pitman in Paris

THE French electoral lists feature few women candidates but one with a distinctive platform is Dominique Voynet.

She stands for the Greens and is out to appeal to the feminists. A passionate campaigner for environmental issues in her late thirties, Mme Voynet has harnessed as her own the one sentiment conspicuously absent from the platforms of her rivals, the issue of sexual equality.

"She's the only one who has taken anything like a responsible line on jobs, welfare, support for women. She's the only one in whom women can feel confident," says a member of the Maison de Femmes, a militant feminist pressure group.

But being the only candidate with feminist appeal (the other woman, Arlette Laguiller, is from the Trostkyist Workers' Party — a singular looking dame who brims with talks of revolutionary combat and sees no distinction between male or female supporters as long as they are comrades in arms) is not necessarily the ticket to success in France.

The feminist movement is in a state of crisis, according to the Maison de Femmes. Too many working women are interested in only getting on with their jobs and refuse to join the militant struggle. Sounds familiar.

While this election is of course momentous, a crucial turning point in French political history representing the end of the Mitterrand era, its tone is nevertheless listing a little towards the shabby end of the spectrum. Each of the candidates has adopted a scatter-gun approach, avoiding specifics on matters of policy wherever possible (because they are at a loss to distinguish their own imperative on the key issue of unemployment) and attempting, with a huge Gallic cynicism that has not gone undetected by the electorate, to appeal to the broadest possible majority.

All, that is, except for Robert Hue, the candidate of the Communist Party, a rank ideologue with an image of sartorial dereliction to match his politics and a groundswell of support among the diminishing ranks of the age-old French intellectuals of the Left.

If the bars of the sixth arrondissement are anything to go by, French democracy is in a healthy condition, bursting with zeal for debate, characterised by sage yet sceptical listening until the post-prandial brandy-inspired insults begin to fly. Pride alone in their status as members of the dying breed of the Parisian intellectuals demands that these tourist-attraction artisans vote for M Hue.

Forgotten hero Zhukov rides back to Moscow in triumph

From Michael Binyon in Moscow

FIFTY years after riding in triumph through the capital of the country he saved from the Nazi invaders, Marshal Georgi Zhukov, the Soviet Union's greatest military commander, will sit astride his favourite horse again.

A crane will today lower the huge bronze figure of Zhukov onto the horse that is to stand on a pedestal in the centre of Moscow. The strategic genius, who throughout the communist period was never given official acclaim, is being honoured as the victor of the Second World War.

The jealousy of Stalin and Khrushchev and communist concern that the national hero would eclipse the party's standing had virtually eliminated Zhukov from popular memory; now, his statue, by Vyachesiav Klykov, is to be unveiled on May 8, he is praised in every newspaper and huge portraits hang from public buildings. More than any figure from the communist past, the memory of the man who won the battle of Stalingrad is burnished by grateful popular sentiment.

Zhukov has frequently been compared with Kutuzov, the general who defeated Napoleon. Appropriately, after more than 15 years of vacillation, Russia's gigantic memorial to the Second World War is being completed beside the Borodino arch on the edge of the city, which will itself be unveiled on May 9.

Vyacheslav Klykov cleans part of his Zhukov statue

Kremlin insists that Yeltsin 'is better'

From Reuter in Moscow

THE Kremlin's chief spokesman, acting to quell a wave of speculation that President Yeltsin was unwell, said yesterday that the Russian leader's health was improving.

However, Sergei Medvedev acknowledged that Mr Yeltsin was suffering from high blood pressure, which can cause sporadic muscle weakness, and was taking drugs to control his condition.

"The President's doctors have come to the conclusion that [his] health is better," Mr Medvedev said in a rare statement on the subject. "He is able to maintain the physical activity and capacity to work at a level which corresponds to his age." A series of recent stumbling public appearances by the 64-year-old President have revived speculation that he could be ill.

Mr Medvedev said he issued the statement to counter a spate of recent "rumours and blatant speculation", many of which had started since Mr Yeltsin went on a three-week holiday last month. "Those political leaders who have launched their pre-election campaigns for the presidential seat have started actively using [the rumours]," he said.

The protracted Chechenia conflict, which began while Mr Yeltsin was in hospital for ten days, has reduced his popularity. There is no guarantee he would be re-elected if he decides to stand for the presidency next year.

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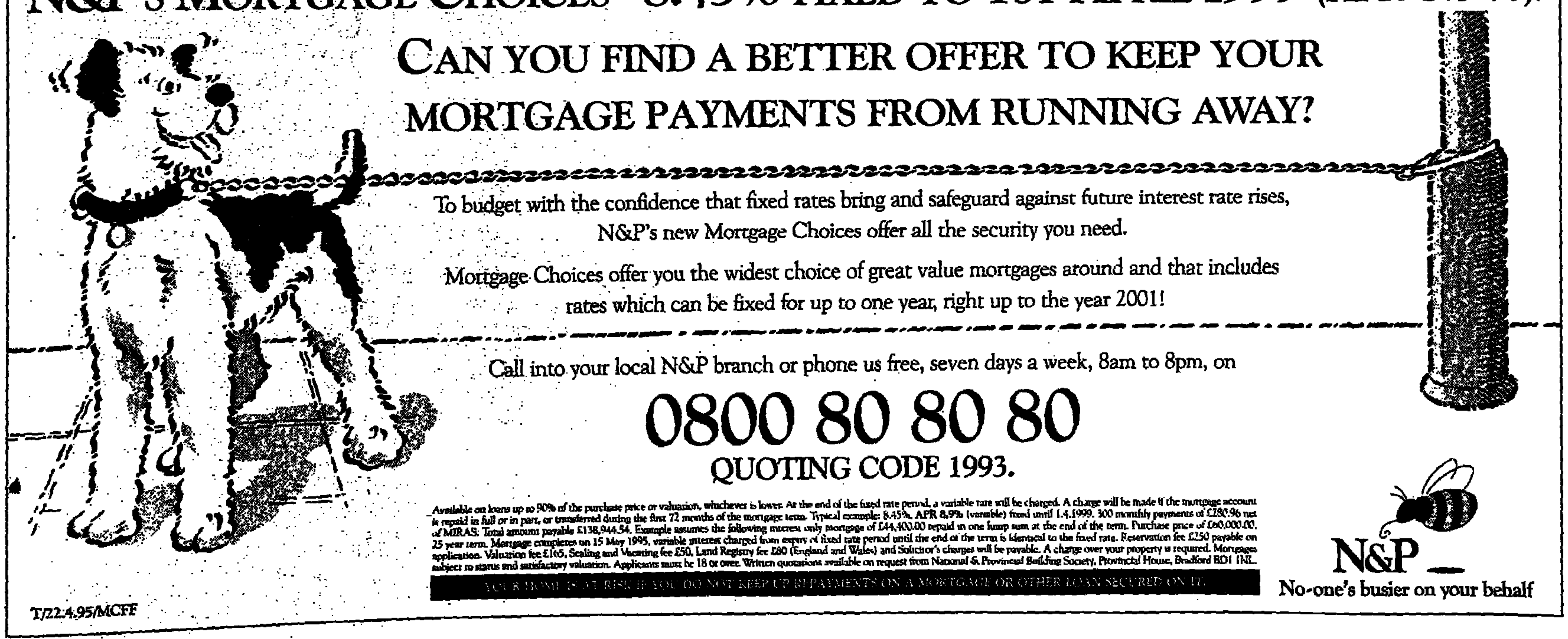

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Lucky ones recall instant lives were torn apart

FROM TOM RHODES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

AT 9am on the day before her thirty-fifth birthday, Robyn Parent was working at a computer terminal in the seventh floor offices of the Alfred Murrah building in Oklahoma City. Yesterday, thoughts of any celebration were long forgotten as doctors prepared her for surgery to determine whether she loses her left eye.

Ms Parent, a secretary in Housing and Urban Development, was happy to be alive, however, after the bomb tore through the building on Wednesday killing scores of peopleand injuring hundreds. "If I lose my sight, that's nothing. At least I have my life," she said.

The floor beside her desk had opened suddenly to reveal a chasm stretching to the ground. It was an experience similar to many who had survived the blast.

Henderson Baker, an army captain, was catapulted from his recruiting office on the fourth storey, landing on the first floor with an injured arm and blood flowing from his face.

"I thank the Lord I wasn't at my desk at the time because that portion of the building has now gone," he said.

"I had no idea what was going on. It was dark, black and I was falling."

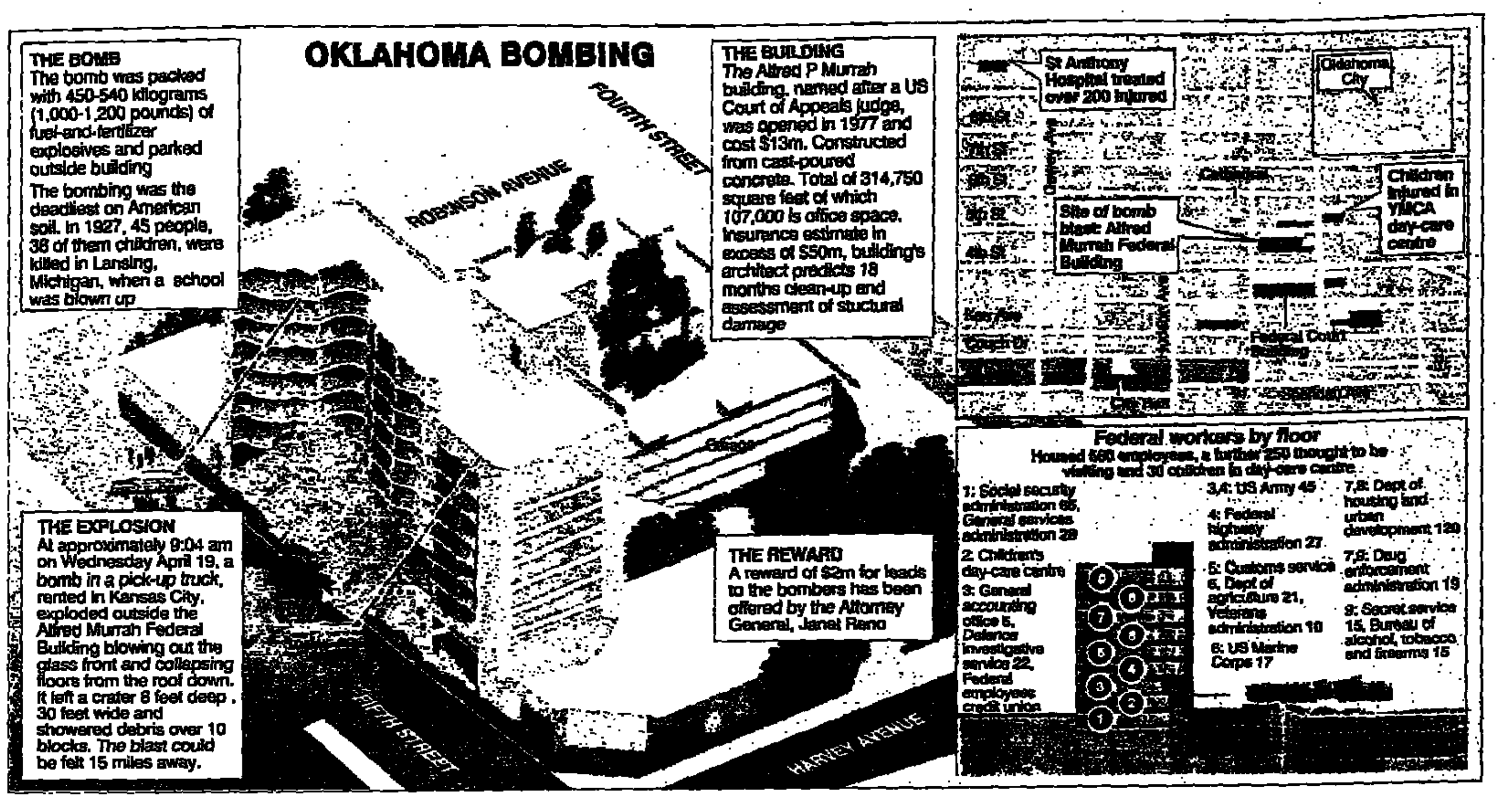
In the moments before the explosion, Victor Lawton had been considering refilling his coffee mug from the eighth floor machine. Fortunately he had decided to first sign some urgent papers. In an instant the coffee dispenser and the entire area around it, had vanished. "If I was 8ft closer they would be spreading my ashes over Lincoln Park Golf Course," said Mr Lawton, 64, who described the falling debris as being like a "waterfall of garbage".

Melissa McCulley, in hospital with a dislocated hip, cuts and a leg injury, was in the first floor offices of the General Services Administration, writing a letter. Moments later she was encased in rubble. "It was dark and I couldn't see. I started screaming. I couldn't move," she said. "I heard someone else moaning and finally managed to crawl over to her. We held hands until the firemen arrived."

It was then that Ms McCulley, 20, remembered the children's day care centre one floor above. "'What about the children,' I started yelling, 'what's happened to them?'."

The nursery had borne the brunt of the blast and many of the youngsters had died instantly. The survivors were found floors below or buried amid the wreckage. The children would of been eating breakfast as the device exploded, destroying the walls adorned with drawings.

Yesterday, Baylee Almon, the child pictured cradled in the arms of a fireman was pronounced dead. The day before the blast had been her first birthday. "How could these monsters do this," her mother Arin, 22, said.


OKLAHOMA BOMBING
FOURTH STREET
ROBINSON AVENUE
FIFTH STREET
HARVEY AVENUE
St Anthony Hospital treated over 200 injured
Oklahoma City
Children injured in YMCA day-care centre
Site of bomb blast: Alfred Murrah Federal Building
Federal Court Building
4th St
5th St

THE BOMB
The bomb was packed with 450-540 kilograms (1,000-1,200 pounds) of fuel-and-fertilizer explosives and parked outside building
The bombing was the deadliest on American soil. In 1927, 45 people, 38 of them children, were killed in Lansing, Michigan, when a school was blown up

THE BUILDING
The Alfred P Murrah building, named after a US Court of Appeals judge, was opened in 1977 and cost $13m. Constructed from cast-poured concrete. Total of 314,750 square feet of which 107,000 is office space. Insurance estimate in excess of $50m, building's architect predicts 18 months clean-up and assessment of stuctural damage

THE EXPLOSION
At approximately 9:04 am on Wednesday April 19, a bomb in a pick-up truck, rented in Kansas City, exploded outside the Alfred Murrah Federal Building blowing out the glass front and collapsing floors from the roof down. It left a crater 8 feet deep, 30 feet wide and showered debris over 10 blocks. The blast could be felt 15 miles away.

THE REWARD
A reward of $2m for leads to the bombers has been offered by the Attorney General, Janet Reno

Federal workers by floor
Housed 550 employees, a further 250 thought to be visiting and 30 children in day-care centre

- 1: Social security administration 65, General services administration 29
- 2: Children's day-care centre
- 3: General accounting office 5, Defence investigative service 22, Federal employees credit union
- 3,4: US Army 45
- 4: Federal highway administration 27
- 5: Customs service 6, Dept of agriculture 21, Veterans administration 10
- 6: US Marine Corps 17
- 7,8: Dept of housing and urban development 120
- 7,8: Drug enforcement administration 19
- 9: Secret service 15, Bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms 15

Family outing which became family's tragedy

BY TOM RHODES

KATHLEEN TREANER held the furry toy animal to her breast. Her husband Mike held the portrait almost gingerly, not wanting to tarnish the precious reminder of a daughter still missing yesterday in the bombed building in Oklahoma City.

Ashley Treaner, four, and her grandparents, Luther and Larue, had an appointment in the Social Services Department on the first floor when disaster struck. Luther Treaner, 60, had been settling his affairs with the Government before retiring from a job at the local dairy to a restful existence in the farmland prairies of Oklahoma.

The three have not been seen since, and neither, it seems, have they been included on any of the yellow lists of the dead, missing, and injured now circulating at the First Christian Church, the clearing house for grieving relatives. "I gave this back to Ashley for Christmas," said Mr Treaner, pointing tearfully to the toy cat. "She loves little Kitty. She loves me, and I love her so, so much. I have to know what happened to my Ashley. I have two other children who need me — I have to get on with my life."

The Treaners are typical of their state — polite, hardworking, Christian, and extremely close. Mike and Kathleen were school sweethearts, and, when they were separated for 11 years, it was his mother, Larue, who rekindled their relationship. "She loved me like a daughter," said Mrs Treaner, slipping unwittingly into the past tense. "She was a wonderful person, a singer in the choir, and a great cook. She was very passionate about her beliefs and her family. I know she would be looking after Ashley now if she could be. Nanna wouldn't want anything to happen to her baby girl."

The elder couple have always tended to their grandchildren when they were not at school, or when their parents were too busy at the insurance company and garage in Oklahoma City where they work.

"I made her a very pretty bow for her hair that day. It was her favourite thing," Mrs Treaner said, as she displayed the picture of her blonde haired daughter. "Her hair's a bit longer now, and it's not bobbed any more. This was taken almost a year ago, but she will be five in July."

A group of soldiers, on permanent guard outside the white-domed church to protect relatives from endless media inquiries, walked over to comfort Mrs Treaner as she started to sob uncontrollably. "Death's not good enough for people who can do this to innocent families," murmured one.

Ashley Treaner, aged four, missing in the shattered building while her parents Kathleen and Mike grieve

Britain's expertise on terror impresses America

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE scenes of devastation in Oklahoma City reaching Britain have been watched with interest by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and their counterparts in the Royal Ulster Constabulary. They know that within days the backbreaking task of sifting through tonnes of debris for clues will begin, and British officers have been there many times before.

The IRA launched its first mainland campaign in 1972 with a series of car bomb attacks that included the Old Bailey, the BBC and even Scotland Yard itself.

This week London and Washington have already talked about making use of British expertise in bombing investigations to help the FBI to trace those behind the Oklahoma City blast. It follows a growing pattern of co-operation in the past decade.

In 1989 the FBI worked with Scottish police and the Yard in the investigation into the bomb attack on Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. After the World Trade Centre bombing in New York the Americans came to London to see how the British police dealt with the gathering and analysis of evidence. British security experts also visited New York to look at how the trade centre was protected and advise on new security measures.

The exchanges were examples of a constant flow of intelligence and data on international terrorism regularly swapped between Britain and the United States. Both the FBI and the British police run bomb data centres that detail developments in devices.

In the past three years London police have had to deal with the aftermath of two enormous vehicle bombs in the City of London that created damage on a scale not unlike that in Oklahoma City.

The police work after the Lockerbie bomb won applause from the Americans. As part of a search of hundreds of square miles, police found two fragments smaller than fingernail. One was embedded in a scrap of clothing, another in a part of a cargo hold. The fragments were identified as bits of the bomb.

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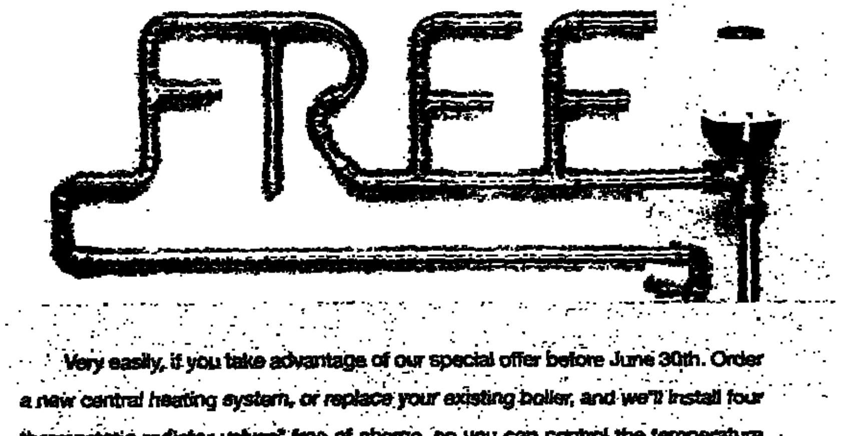

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Police free man flown back from Heathrow

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A MAN flown back under armed guard to Washington from Heathrow airport on Thursday night was released after questioning by the FBI yesterday. But the scramble to detain the Arab-American has raised questions about security measures in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing.

The 32-year-old man, identified as Ibrahim Abdullah Hassan Ahmad, was interviewed by federal agents for several hours in Chicago just hours after the bombing, but was then allowed to take a British Airways flight to London en route to Rome and Amman, Jordan, while his luggage — later found to include aluminium foil, spools of electric wire, insulating tape, knives and a pair of "needle-head" pliers — was sent separately.

> Alitalia should be banned from Heathrow Airport because it breached security guidelines by carrying the unaccompanied baggage of the Arab-American wanted for questioning about the Oklahoma bombing, Terry Dicks, Conservative MP for Hayes and Harlington, said yesterday.

His three cases were not searched in the United States but were sent on to Rome. Once Italian authorities found their "suspicious" contents, Mr Ahmad was stopped, at the request of the American Government, at Heathrow.

Suspicion fell on Mr Ahmad because he had reportedly left his home in Oklahoma City, four miles from the Alfred Murrah Building, just 25 minutes after the explosion. Witnesses had described seeing a man dressing in sportswear near the scene just before the blast — and Mr Ahmad was wearing a jogging suit when he was stopped by federal agents at Chicago.

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Oscar Wilde.

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US moves to save Korea nuclear pact

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration yesterday offered to upgrade negotiations with North Korea in an urgent attempt to save last October's international accord ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

The offer came as North Korean negotiators terminated talks with mid-level US officials in Berlin and flew home, fuelling American fears that North Korea would now end the freeze on its nuclear weapons programme that it has observed for the past six months.

But Kim Jong U, head of the North Korean delegation, blamed the "rupture" on "inflexible and unreasonable" US demands, and suggested nothing would be gained by higher-level talks. "We think everything that could be discussed in high-level talks has already been discussed and settled," he said. North Korea had made yesterday its deadline for reaching agreement on implementation of October's accord, but US negotiators were unable to surmount Pyongyang's refusal to accept two safe new civil nuclear reactors from its old enemy, South Korea, in place of an existing reactor that produces weapons-grade plutonium.

The offer of higher-level talks in Geneva, designed to exploit North Korea's hunger for international recognition, was made by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, after urgent consultations with Japan and South Korea. He insisted that the dispute over South Korea's involvement was "not an insoluble problem" and urged North Korea not to proceed with its threats to begin refuelling its existing reactor.

Another senior US official insisted that the situation was "still fluid", but there was no disguising the Administration's anxiety. The Pentagon disclosed on Thursday that maintenance teams had been seen entering the five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon and said that any effort to restart it would violate the accord and be regarded by the US as a "very, very serious step". The State Department said that "if North Korea breaks the freeze ... we would consult with our allies about returning this issue to the UN Security Council, including the possibility of seeking sanctions".

Warren: dispute "not insoluble"

North Korea, which has a huge military force stretched along its southern border, has in the past threatened to respond to sanctions by attacking South Korea.

Under last October's agreement, North Korea agreed to shut down the Yongbyon reactor and eventually dismantle all its present nuclear facilities in return for two new light-water reactors worth $4 billion (£2.5 billion) that do not produce weapons-grade plutonium. Though it was not formally written into the framework agreement, America believed it had a clear understanding that South Korea would take the lead in building and financing the new reactors.

Indeed, Seoul agreed to provide the bulk of the finance only on condition that it supplied the reactors, but the Americans have once again found it impossible to pin down the North Koreans.

Pyongyang has refused to accept South Korean reactors for what it called "reasons of political and technical safety". It is reluctant to acknowledge the South's superior technical abilities, fears Seoul would include spies among the thousands of technicians needed to build the reactors, and does not want South Korea, which dreams of Korean unification, to gain control of a key sector of its economy.

While some of North Korea's objections may be genuine, many US experts fear Pyongyang has been stringing the West along for the past few years while drawing ever closer to its goal of obtaining nuclear weapons.

☐ **Seoul:** Russia will repay part of a $1.47 billion debt to South Korea with raw materials and high-tech military goods, the Seoul Government said yesterday.

The deal, reached after seven days of talks in Seoul, covers $457 million of the debt — $387.5 million in principal payment and $69.5 million in interest, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said.

South Korea agreed in 1990 to lend $3 billion in cash and goods to the Soviet Union in a deal linked to the establishment of diplomatic ties. Only $1.47 billion was turned over before the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Moscow failed to make interest payments in 1992 and Seoul halted disbursements.

Russia has agreed to send South Korea tanks, armoured vehicles, portable anti-tank guided missiles, anti-aircraft missiles and ammunition worth $228.1 million, the Defense Ministry said. It will also turn over $22.5 million in civilian helicopters and $225.35 million of aluminium, steel and other raw materials. *(AP)*

Mexico the new 'drugs highway' to US

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

INVESTIGATIONS into a series of high-profile assassinations in Mexico have highlighted the growing power and violence of local drug cartels.

Mexican cartels now control what has become a new drugs "highway", estimated to account for 70 per cent of the cocaine consumed in the US. "The Mexican cartels have come of age," said a senior American official.

Experts say Mexico is on the verge of becoming another Colombia, where drug traffickers have allegedly infiltrated all levels of government to win protection for their trade.

America is beefing up controls along the 2,000-mile border with Mexico as a last line of defence. But securing the border is a difficult task. Officials say drug traffickers use blow torches to burn garage-size holes in the 12-foot-high corrugated-steel border fence — then drive trucks loaded with cocaine through them.

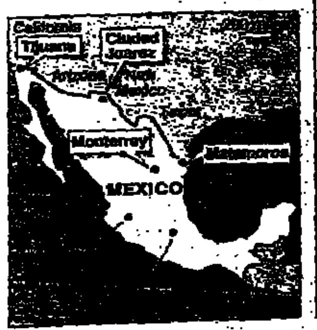
According to drug experts, there are dozens of Mexican drug gangs operating along the border, which break down into three main cartels.

☐ **The Tijuana:** operates on the border with California and is suspected of the May 1993 killing of the Roman Catholic Cardinal, Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo, in Guadalajara. "The cardinal got in the way because he knew too much," the US official said.

☐ **The Juárez:** dominates the central area bordering on New Mexico.

☐ **The Gulf:** territory extends along the Texas border in the states of Nuevo León and Tamaulipas. Its boss, Juan García Abrego, 50, is seen as a Mexican Pablo Escobar, the former Colombian baron who died in a shoot-out with police in December 1993. In March, García Abrego was placed on a list of America's ten most wanted criminals, and the US offered a $2 million reward for his arrest.

Mexico's cartels were created in the last decade through ties to the Colombian cocaine barons, principally the Cali cartel. In the 1980s, as the demand for cocaine rose in the US, Mexico became more attractive for the Colombian traffickers. A US-led crackdown on trafficking routes in the Caribbean forced the cartels to explore new routes.



Jews in Jerusalem on the last day of Passover yesterday shut their ears to hymns sung by Christians observing the Orthodox Good Friday

Land takeover protects test site

US Air Force drives snoopers away

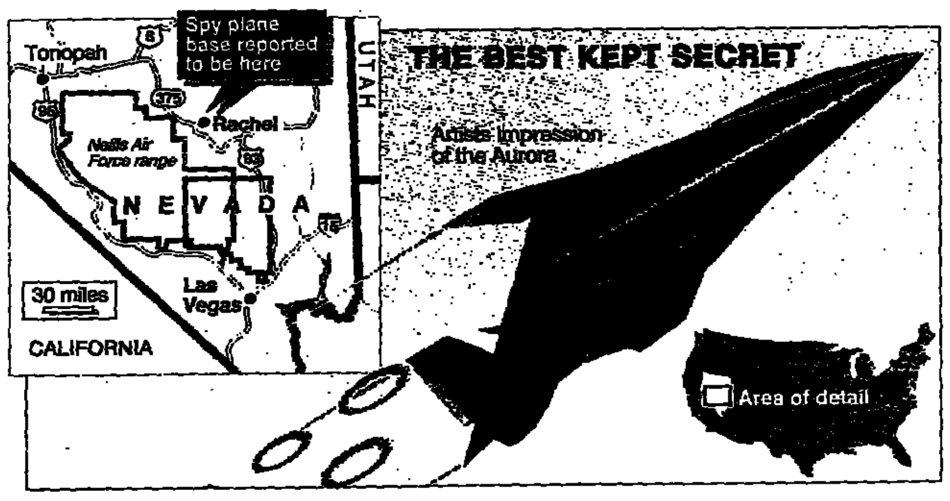
THE US Air Force, determined to develop its successor to the B2 stealth bomber in total secrecy, has taken control of nearly 4,000 acres of Nevada upland to deprive the public of two vantage points from which it was possible to glimpse America's most sensitive military test site.

Known variously as Area 51, Groom Lake and Dreamland, although the Pentagon denies that it has a name, this lake bed 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas is thought to be the main proving ground for a new high-altitude aircraft.

Although little is known about the new aircraft, sometimes referred to as Aurora, it is common knowledge among civilians who have visited the perimeter of the site that their presence has frustrated the Air Force, interrupting testing programmes and requiring the sending of employees from the site to discourage snooping. Hundreds have made the trip from Las Vegas in recent months, according to Glenn Campbell, self-appointed director of the Area 51 Research Centre.

The existence of the site was not acknowledged by the Pentagon in its request to the Federal Bureau of Land Management, Mr Campbell says. Instead its application for control of the popular vantage points was said to be "for the public safety and the safe and secure operation of activities in the Nellis Range complex", a reference to Nevada's well-known nuclear test site.

From now on, civilians who used to scramble with infrared night sights, telephoto lenses and powerful binoculars to White Sides and Freedom Ridge, two peaks that are about 13 miles from the site, will not be able to get any closer than 25 miles from the aircraft test site.



Lawyers win £4.3m from Warhol estate

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

A MANHATTAN judge has put a price on Andy Warhol's 15 minutes of fame by awarding more than $7 million (£4.3 million) to two lawyers who worked for the artist's estate.

Edward Hayes claimed he had agreed to work for the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts for a percentage of the value of the estate. That left Judge Eve Preminger with the problem of working out precisely how much Warhol's art collection is worth at today's prices. She came up with the figure of $509.9 million, including not just Warhol's pop art, but property and other investments — a sum more than twice the estimate made by the foundation.

The flamboyant Mr Hayes, who was the model for the character Tom Killian in Tom Wolfe's novel *Bonfire of the Vanities*, and his colleague, Francis Harvey, claimed that the Warhol foundation was deliberately undervaluing its collection. Mr Hayes, who began working for the foundation soon after Warhol's death in 1987, says he was promised at least 2 per cent of the estate's worth. The foundation said the lawyer, who had been fired, had already been overpaid.

The Warhol collection includes 700 paintings, 9,000 drawings and 66,000 photographs. Rather than calculate the award on a percentage basis alone, which would have come to more than $10 million, the judge took into account "the quality of the work and the results obtained". That, she decided, came to $7.2 million, plus $250,000 for expenses. Lawyers for the foundation are to appeal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Winnie Mandela 'very ill'

Johannesburg: Winnie Mandela is seriously ill, according to the Johannesburg clinic where she is being treated (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The former deputy minister and estranged wife of President Mandela, was admitted to the private clinic on Tuesday for what her family said would be rest and a general examination. But a statement issued yesterday by Dr Peter Kalish, managing director of the clinic, said her condition — "serious but stable" — was not related to stress "or any other psychosomatic disorder".

Raid on Tigers

Colombo: Navy gunboats and patrol boats bombarded a Tamil Tigers' rebel base in the northern peninsula of Jaffna at dawn. Eleven sailors were killed by a Tigers' suicide squad on Wednesday.

22 Hutus shot

Kigali: Rwandan government troops killed 22 Hutus and wounded about 50 when they opened fire in a filthy, overcrowded camp in southwestern Rwanda, aid agency officials said. *(Reuter)*

Fumes hit port

Corpus Christi, Texas: Fumes from a barge forced thousands of workers to evacuate buildings close to this port after it collided with a British tanker, the *Maersk Shetland*, in Corpus Christi Bay. *(AP)*

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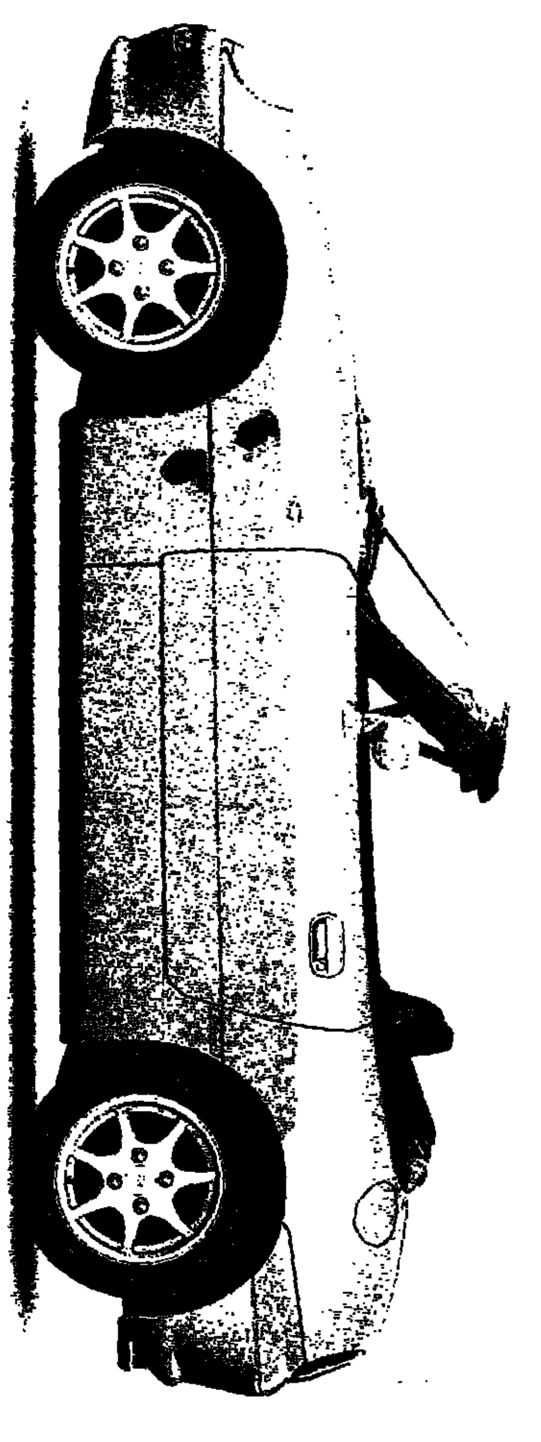

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Japanese shoppers flee store amid panic over fumes

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

FEAR of renewed threats of terrorism gripped Japan last night after noxious fumes spread through a department store in Yokohama, near the railway station where more than 500 people were affected on Wednesday by toxic fumes.

In yesterday's incident, about 17 shoppers, including five schoolgirls, in the Yokohama Vivre 21 department store were taken to hospital with sore throats and stinging eyes after reporting a bad smell on the store's third floor. None was seriously injured.

The department store closed immediately for inspection by military chemical experts and police investigators. However, no further details of the substance involved, or whether it was linked to Wednesday's incident, were available.

Japanese news reports said the fumes may have originated from a malfunctioning air-conditioning system. Many commentators suggested last night, however, that Aum Shinrikyo, the cult implicated in the March poison gas attack on Tokyo's subway system, was responsible.

Reports of the incident increased tension in Tokyo. Coming as it did on the eve of a weekend and shortly before the Japanese take off for a string of national holidays known as "Golden Week", the incident will dampen participation in normal leisure activities.

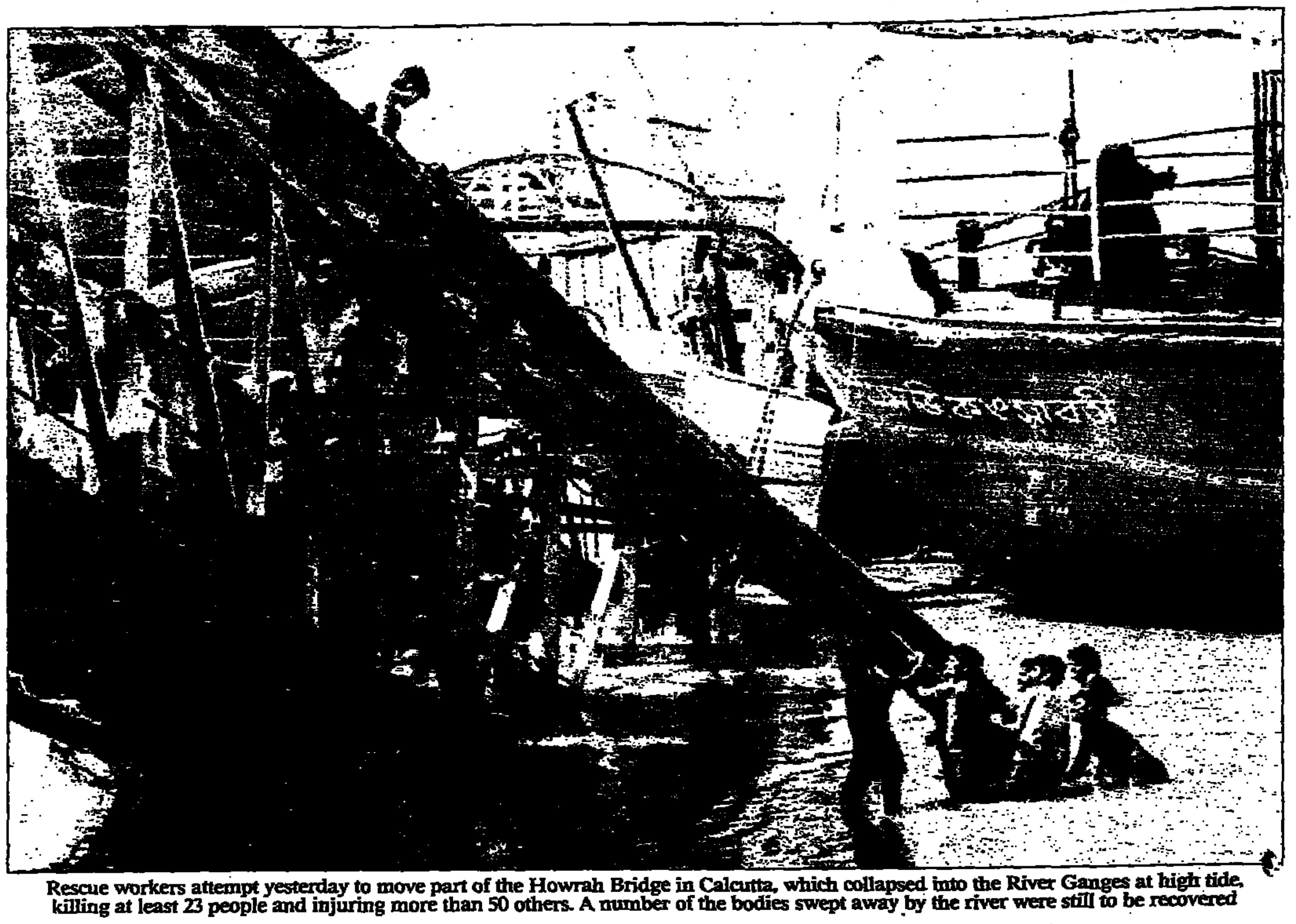
News that Shoko Asahara, the near-blind leader of Aum Shinrikyo, is about to publish a book of his thoughts since the Tokyo attack, added to anxiety. Mr Asahara disappeared from the cult's main compound after the March 20 attack and is now in hiding.

Mr Asahara's book, according to early reports, contains veiled threats and dire prophecies about the police, the media and lawyers who have criticised Aum Shinrikyo. The book claims that the cult had nothing to do with the Tokyo attack, or the kidnappings and other illegal activities of which it has been accused.

The cult leader admits in his book, *Pity for Japan, a Ruinous Nation*, that he has a serious illness. A cult spokesman has said that he could have a terminal illness as a result of gas attacks on the cult by "the Japanese Government and the American military".

Mr Asahara said he had intended to remain silent after the subway attack, but was speaking up because of "all the illegal arrests and accusations" against cult members. He claims that the media, which he says is "controlled by the Government", will incur the "anger of the deities", and that evil will befall the police and the state, due to "repression of an innocent religious organisation".

Referring to lawyers who lead an anti-Aum association, Mr Asahara said they would "roam in hell or go to the animal world after they die".



Rescue workers attempt yesterday to move part of the Howrah Bridge in Calcutta, which collapsed into the River Ganges at high tide, killing at least 23 people and injuring more than 50 others. A number of the bodies swept away by the river were still to be recovered

Vietnam mother's pain lingers as war images fade

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN TRANG BANG, VIETNAM

Today it is hard to associate the peaceful scene around the yellow stucco Cao Dai temple in Vietnam's Tay Ninh province with bloodshed and death. Nevertheless, it was here that the tragedy of the Vietnam War was once so unforgettably captured on film: nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc was photographed running in agony for her life after tearing off her burning clothes when the temple was hit by napalm.

But to Duong Ngoc Nu, Kim Phuc's mother, the memory of those terrible days in 1972 are still vivid as communist Vietnam prepares to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the fall of Saigon. Victory parades or not, it is the events of June 1972 that still preoccupy Mrs Ngoc Nu, 63. "The day the 'oil-bombs' fell seems just like yesterday," she said yesterday.

She was speaking in her run-down straw and bamboo house behind the temple of the Cao Dai sect, one of the more obscure of Vietnam's exotic mix of religions. It has a "pope" and female cardinals and includes Churchill and Victor Hugo among its saints.

Mrs Ngoc Nu and her husband have not seen Kim Phuc, now 32, for five years. Only recently, in a new and strange twist to the drama that befell the tiny Vietnamese girl in an obscure village, she learnt that her daughter is in Canada after escaping from Cuba, where she had been sent by the Vietnamese authorities to take part in a continuing propaganda effort and be educated.

Kim Phuc recently gave birth to a son named Thomas, Mrs Ngoc Nu said, wistfully wondering if she will ever see her grandson. She and her husband receive only a little food for looking after the temple overlooking Vietnam's Highway One. Perhaps nobody should be too surprised at the violence that once occurred here, since Graham Greene wrote about Highway One in Tay Ninh in his 1955 book, *The Quiet American*, still regarded as a classic on the war because of its remarkable prescience.

Greene's protagonist, the journalist Fowler, had to spend a frightening night, probably near this nondescript village when his car broke down. Then, the enemy forces in the rice paddies were the Viet Minh, whose successes in the end won the war for North Vietnam's leader, Ho Chi Minh.

This was the same road that the North Vietnamese army advanced down in June 1972, prompting South Vietnam to send in Skyraiders to drop napalm on the temple, which housed not the enemy but Mrs Ngoc Nu and her family.

The picture of Kim Phuc, taken by Associated Press photographer Nick Ut, became world famous only by chance, according to Horst Faas, then AP's Vietnam picture chief. At the time female frontal nudity, even in a child, was not normally accepted for transmission to newspapers around the world.

But when he went through pictures that had been rejected by a deputy in his Saigon bureau, Faas decided the image was too powerful to be ignored.

In the end the Pulitzer-prize winning photograph was one of the Vietnam War's most powerful images, with that of a self-immolating Buddhist monk, the South Vietnamese police chief summarily executing a suspected Vietcong during the Tet offensive of 1968 and terrified Vietnamese trying to reach an American helicopter atop a building in Saigon as South Vietnam fell apart.

As she served a visitor a glass of water in her humble home, Mrs Ngoc Nu said: "I remember the 'oil-bombs' beginning to fall and then picking up the children, including two baby nieces and running. Some napalm hit the babies even while they were in my arms and they fell from my grasp.

"I bent down to pick up the babies, but they just crumbled away in my hands and there was nothing left. For eight days we were continually running with very little food to sustain us. I prayed to the Lord Buddha that we be spared and in the end we were saved, but there has been little happiness in life since then."

She said she had recently obtained Kim's Canadian address but when she went to the newly opened post office in Trang Bang to post a letter she was told it would cost $20 (£12.50). That is the sum that the Vietnamese Government provides for her and her husband to live on — for a year. "We do not have access to that kind of money so I was not able to send Kim Phuc a letter," she said.

Kim Phuc fleeing a US napalm attack in 1972. She now lives in Canada but her mother remains in Vietnam

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هيئة امن الاصل

Hired vehicle not in ownership

Salford Van Hire (Contracts) Ltd v Bocholt Developments Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hirst and Sir Ralph Gibson

[Judgment April 6]

A commercial vehicle that was in the possession of a company under a hiring agreement was not in the "reputed ownership" of that company when distraint was levied on it *for defaulting* in paying the rent *for its premises*.

Simple inquiries to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre would have satisfied the bailiff as to the ownership of the vehicle and it was thus outside the scope of section 4(1) of the Law of Distress (Amendment) Act 1908 and could not be subject to distraint.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Salford Van Hire (Contracts) Ltd, from the *dismissal of their claim for damages* of £6,100 against the defendants, Bocholt Developments Ltd, the landlords of the company's premises, by Judge Tetlow in Manchester County Court on February 7, 1994.

Their Lordships expressed the view that the procedure of levying *distress for rent had outlived its* usefulness as a just remedy and that, in accordance with the modern law of bankruptcy and the Law Commission's recommendation in 1991 (HC 138), it should be abolished.

Mr James Bonney for the plaintiffs; Mr Anthony Elleray, QC, for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the plaintiffs, large-scale hirers of commercial vehicles, had hired out the vehicle, an unmarked Mercedes 7.5 ton van, to a company in 1991. That company later ran into financial difficulties owing the defendants, their landlords, rent. *In 1992 the defendants distrained for the arrears, a walking possession agreement being executed of the goods on the* company's premises that had included the van.

The crucial issue was whether the company had been the "reputed owners" of the van for the purposes of section 4(1) of the 1908 Act. If it had been the levying of distress was, as the judge held, *lawful; if not the plaintiffs were entitled to damages.*

The plaintiffs' case was that to establish that goods in the possession of the company were in its reputed ownership, the burden was on the defendants to establish that a reasonable person with knowledge of the general course of *business* and having made all reasonable *inquiries would infer* that the goods must, not may or may not, be owned by the company.

Whether, it was said, such an inference could be drawn, all relevant circumstances, including the prevalence of hiring should be taken into account. Mr Bonney pointed out the prevalence as an ordinary incident of commercial *life of hiring and to the evidence that 8 per cent of vehicles in that particular class were on hire. It was evident, he said, that the* "must" test had not been met.

Historically the entitlement of a landlord *to distrain for rent* was a very old, well established right going back before the Distress for Rent Act 1689. The doctrine of reputed ownership dated back to a statute of King James I. The remarkable feature of that branch of the law was that other persons' property could be distrained and sold without their knowledge.

Reputed ownership had been considered in several cases, most of which *related to bankruptcy*, the *most recent and most important* being *In re Fox* ([1948] Ch 407), a case unfortunately not cited to the judge.

Mr Bonney's submissions were correct. *Fox's* case was authority for the proposition that the primary question was whether in the circumstances *the* possession of *the van supported the inference* that the company was the reputed owner.

The court could not fail to take judicial notice of the huge expansion of hiring and hire purchase, especially of motor vehicles, so that *it had become a major feature of* economic and social life: far more so than 60 years ago.

Fox's case was also authority for the need for inquiries to be made in appropriate cases. Here a simple telephone call by the bailiff to the DVLC would have established the ownership of the van. Equally the register of vehicles held on hire purchase and kept by Hire Purchase Information Ltd was accessible.

The plaintiffs succeeded at the first hurdle and there was thus no need to examine other aspects of the case.

However, the case could not be left without a fervent hope being expressed that Parliament would adopt the Law Commission's recommendation to abolish the procedure of *distress* for rent, thus bringing the law of landlord and tenant *in that respect* into line with the modern law of bankruptcy.

SIR RALPH GIBSON, concurring, *said that the remedy of distress on the terms set out in the* current legislation, appeared to have outlived its usefulness as a just remedy.

Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Solicitors: Dunderdale Wignall, Manchester; Masons, Bolton.

Taxing gains of non-resident trustees

de Rothschild v Lawrenson (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Henry

[Judgment April 5]

Gains realised in 1988-89 by the non-resident trustees of a settlement under which the United Kingdom resident settlor enjoyed a life interest were to be treated as trust gains accruing to the settlor and chargeable to tax under section 80 of the Finance Act 1981. In making the *computation* required by section 80(2) the *deeming provisions* in paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1988 were to be ignored.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr David de Rothschild, from the judgment of Mr Justice Vinelott (*The Times* December 7, 1993; [1994] STC 8) that *had upheld a determination by special commissioners* of an assessment to capital gains tax in an amount of £173,092.

Section 80, capital gains of non-resident settlements, provides: "(2) There shall be computed in respect of every year of assessment ... the amount on which the trustees would have been chargeable to tax under section 4(1) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 if they had been resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom ... and that amount ... is ... referred to as the trust gains for the year.

"(3) ... the trust gains for a year of assessment *shall be treated as* chargeable *gains accruing in that year to beneficiaries of the settlement who receive capital payments* from the trustees in that year ..."

Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1988 concerns the taxation of gains arising from settled property in which the settlor has an interest and provided by paragraph 1(2) that where chargeable gains accrue to trustees they shall not be chargeable to tax in respect of the *gains* concerned *but instead they shall be treated as accruing to the* settlor.

Paragraph 4 of Schedule 10 provides: "Paragraph 1 above does not apply unless the settlor is, and trustees are ... resident in the United Kingdom during the year."

Mr Andrew Park, QC and Mrs Felicity Cullen for the taxpayer; Mr Christopher McCall, QC and Mr Launcelot Henderson for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the case was about capital gains tax on settled property, the taxpayer claiming that the enactment of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 10 to the Finance Act 1988 having the fortuitous effect of reducing to nil a charge under section 80 of the 1981 Act.

Mr Park, *starting with section 80(2) submitted that the trust gains for* 1988-89 were the *amount on* which the trustees would have been chargeable to the tax if they had been resident in the United Kingdom in that year.

That made it necessary, he said, to ask on what amount the trustees would have been chargeable had they been resident in the United Kingdom, *for which purpose the law in force as respected resident trustees during 1988-89 had to be* applied.

He said that that question could only be answered by reference to Schedule 10 to the 1988 Act, being the law which affected resident trustees during that year.

Since paragraph 1(2) provided that where, as here, the settlor was also a beneficiary the trustees would not be chargeable to tax in respect of the gains concerned, the trust gains for the purposes of section 80(2) were nil and the taxpayer had to be assessed accordingly.

However, section 80(2) was a deeming provision. *It required non-resident trustees to be treated as if they had been resident.* The purpose for which the fiction was to be resorted to was clear. It was in order to compute the amount of the charge imposed on the beneficiaries of a non-resident settlement by subsection (3) and the following subsections of section 80.

The taxpayer would introduce into the computation a provision transferring a charge *from the trustees to the settlor of a resident* settlement.

Not only would that lead to an absurd result; it would apply to one kind of settlement a provision relating to another and quite different kind of settlement. The introduction was therefore inappropriate. In making the computation required by section *80(2) paragraph 1(2) had to be* ignored.

Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Henry agreed.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Power to conceal witness's identity

Regina v Southampton Industrial Tribunal, Ex parte INS News Group Ltd and Another

An industrial tribunal should not use its general discretionary power to avoid formality under regulation 9(1) of the Industrial Tribunal (Constitution and Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1993 No 2687) for the purpose of excluding the public and press from a hearing in a case where there were allegations of sexual misconduct, but rather it should make unambiguous orders against the identification of people involved under regulation 14 of the 1993 Regulations which was made *specifically* for that purpose.

Mr Justice Brooke so held in the Queen's Bench Division on February 13 when granting the application of INS News Group Ltd and Express Newspapers plc for judicial *review in the form of a declaration that* the decision of a Southampton industrial tribunal on December 16, 1994 was ultra vires and void.

HIS LORDSHIP said that it was to regulation 14, which set out powers to order that there should be no identification of those involved in cases where allegations of sexual misconduct had been made, that tribunals had to look in order to exercise power to restrict public knowledge of evidence that might permit identification where allegations of sexual *misconduct* were made.

The history of the case showed *that it was desirable that tribunals should* make their directions clearly so that the press could be in no doubt about what they might and might not do.

Undated document is no guarantee

State Bank of India v Kaur

An undated document, purporting to be a guarantee for moneys lent which neither named the principal debtor nor the amount borrowed was not a sufficient memorandum within the Statute of Frauds 1677.

The Court of Appeal (Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Auld) *so stated* on March 7 when *allowing* an appeal by *Mrs Gurmit* Kaur from the refusal if Judge Leo Clarke, QC, to extend the time for appealing against the execution of an order for possession obtained by the bank relating to a house in Birmingham.

THE PRESIDENT said it was a sorry tale. The bank had claimed to be owed £33,000. The document was *undated with a blank for the name of the principal debtor* and there were other deficiences.

Mrs Kaur who did not speak or read English had signed with a cross against her name. The document was not a sufficient memorandum of a guarantee.

Youth under training not dependent child

Regina v Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council, Ex parte Amarfio

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans

[Judgment April 7]

For the purpose of assessment by a local authority of priority need for housing, a boy aged 16 on a youth training scheme was not a dependent child within the meaning of section 59(1)(b) of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held *dismissing an appeal by* Mr Joseph Amarfio from a decision by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* July 4, 1993; (1994) 26 HLR 721) rejecting an application for judicial review of a decision by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea that he was *not in priority* need for accommodation.

Mr James Bowen for Mr Amarfio; Miss Kate Astaniotis for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that Part III of the 1985 Act was *concerned* with housing the homeless. Section 59(1) listed those having priority need for accommodation, by paragraph (b) including "a person with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside". *The Act did not define "dependent children"*.

In October 1993 the applicant applied for accommodation for himself and his son aged 16 who six days earlier had started a two-year youth training scheme. In November the council notified the applicant that it had found him to be homeless but not in priority need.

The purpose of section 59(1)(b) was to identify those having a priority need for accommodation: it was to be construed narrowly. Children under 16 were certainly dependent but the position might be different once they attained that age.

In paragraph 6.3 of *Homelessness: Code of Guidance for Local Authorities* 3rd edition (1991)), *issued under section 71 of* the 1985 Act, local authorities were advised to "include all children under 16, and all children aged 16 to 18 who are in, or about to begin, full-time education or training ... and who live at home".

The judge, having referred to a document on youth training from the Central London Training and *Enterprise Council, and noting the weekly allowance* of £29.50, rising to £35, that was received by trainees, concluded that "a 16 or 17-year-old on a youth training scheme is not within the meaning of the words 'full-time education or training'; those words, *in my view*, being entirely in accord with the legislative provision *in section 59(1)(b)*."

The judge was right. It might be that a 16-year-old who was not financially independent was within that paragraph. But once he went into full-time employment he could not be.

Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Evans gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Daniel & Harris, Kilburn; Mr Alun Phillips, *Kensington*.

Tools of trade wrongly seized

Brookes v Harris and Another

Before Mr Justice Ferris

[Judgment March 17]

Since the legally aided defendant had recovered a collection of musical records, tapes and discs, as being the "tools of his trade" as a presenter of musical programmes on radio and television, which had been wrongly seized by the sheriff for the plaintiff's benefit under a writ of fieri facias, the plaintiff had to pay defendant's costs, amounting probably to over £10,000, even though the defendant owed the plaintiff at least £135,000 in respect of an unsatisfied judgment debt.

Mr Justice Ferris so held in the Chancery Division on an appeal by the *defendants*, Mr Robert *Brinley Harris and Mrs Trudie* Belinda Myerscough-Harris, from a deputy master who had directed that the plaintiff, Mr Trevor Neil Brookes, should be able to set off the costs against the judgment debt.

Mr Purvaise Punwar for Mr Brookes; Mr Michael Gadd for Mr and Mrs Harris.

MR JUSTICE FERRIS said that when in 1990 Mr and Mrs Harris purchased a leasehold flat in *Hampstead, they borrowed from a building society* on a first mortgage, and £130,000 from Mr Brookes on a second legal charge on the flat. They fell into arrears on both.

In October 1993 Mr Brookes obtained an order for possession and for repayment of the £130,000 with interest amounting to £4,349.02. *But the building society obtained possession of the flat* and sold it and the proceeds of sale were insufficient or barely sufficient to pay off the building society's mortgage.

Mr Brookes caused a writ of fieri facias to be issued *and on November 24, 1993 the sheriff entered into walking possession of a collection of records, tapes and compact discs, which* Mr Harris *estimated to be worth between* £10,000 and £20,000.

On the same day Mr Harris, who was a presenter of musical programmes on radio and television, issued a summons seeking an order that the sheriff withdraw, on the ground that the collection constituted tools of his trade, and therefore exempt from seizure.

In August 1994 Master Gowers ruled in his favour but the terms of a formal order and the question of costs were left for consideration at a later date. On the appointed day, October 31, 1994, Master Gowers *was not available, but Deputy* Master Winder *dealt with the matter. He ruled that Mr Brookes should pay the costs of Mr Harris's* successful challenge to the execution. That ruling was not disputed but Mr Brookes claimed that he should be entitled to set off the costs against the unsatisfied judgment owing to him from Mr *Harris*.

Mr Harris argued that there should be no set-off, because he would then lose the collection, which would have to be sold, to pay for legal aid received. On November 1, Deputy Master Winder allowed a set-off. Mr Harris appealed.

When allowing *a set-off the deputy master had indicated that he doubted whether, for the purposes* of section 16(6) of the Legal Aid Act 1988, the record collection was properly to be regarded as "property recovered", *and he impliedly relied upon section 16(8)*, which *provided* that the charge created by subsection (6) "on any damages and costs" should not prevent a court allowing them to be set off against "other damages or costs in any case where a legal representative's lien for costs would not prevent it".

He also thought it most unlikely that the Legal Aid Board would exercise its charge in a way which would deprive Mr Harris of the ability to use the collection to earn his living.

His Lordship did not accept a submission, on Mr Harris's behalf, that subsection (8) only avoided the preventive effect of the statutory charge where the set-off was to be against "*other damages or costs*", *and not where it was to be against a judgment debt.* The charge was not confined to damages and costs, but extended to any property recovered or preserved for a legally aided party. On that view section 16(8) enabled the court to allow a set-off.

After referring to *Lockley v National Blood Transfusion Service* ([1992] 1 WLR 492, 495); *Reid v Cupper* ([1915] 2 KB 147); *Edwards v Hope* ((1885) 14 QBD 922) and *In re a Debtor (No 21 of 1950) (No 2)* ([1951] Ch 612) his Lordship concluded that the court's jurisdiction to allow a set-off was clearly discretionary.

While there was obvious force in the proposition that it would be wrong *to require* Mr Brookes to pay a *substantial sum for the benefit of Mr Harris, at a time* when Mr Harris owed him a six-figure sum which there was little hope of Mr Brookes recovering, the special feature of the case was *the existence of the inflexible charge in favour of the Legal Aid* Board, which the board had *no* discretion not to enforce, giving rise to the equally apparent injustice to Mr Harris that if a set-off were to be allowed Mr Harris's collection would have been saved for him only for him to lose it again to the board.

The board would recover its costs in any event; the only persons to suffer were Mr Harris if a set-off were allowed or Mr Brookes if it were not. After balancing all relevant considerations, *his Lordship* felt that the balance tipped in favour of Mr Harris: the reason why *the collection had become subject to the statutory charge was* because Mr Brookes had sought to levy what was held to be an illegal execution. The appeal would therefore be allowed.

It seemed to his Lordship that the existence of the charge over assets such as the record collection might be unintended: section 16(6) appeared to be the only respect in which a person's tools of trade were not to be left out of account.

It might be that until tools of trade were excluded from property liable to seizure, *by an amendment* in 1991, no exception was called for, but those responsible for the Civil Legal Aid (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 340) as amended by the Civil Legal Aid (General) (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations *(SI 1991 No 2036) might wish to consider whether an addition ought now to be made* to the list of exemptions from the statutory charge in regulation 94.

Mr Brookes would be given leave to appeal.

Solicitors: Russells; Cole & Cole, Oxford.

Serving notice to quit on periodic tenant

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Atwell and Another

Before Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Waite

[Judgment April 7]

Section 196(3) of the Law of Property Act 1925, which permitted service of certain notices by leaving them at the last-known place of abode of the person to be served, did not apply to service on a periodic tenant of a notice to quit where the tenancy agreement *made no express provision for service of notice to quit, since the agreement did not require such a notice to be served within the contemplation of section 196(5).*

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing appeals by the defendants, Mr Desmond Atwell and Mr Joseph Donald, from the order of Judge Hordern made at Central London County Court on August 2, 1994, granting the plaintiffs, Wandsworth *London Borough Council*, *possession of property owned by the council*.

Section 196 of the 1925 Act provides:

"(1) Any notice required or authorised to be served or given by *this Act shall be in writing* ...

"(3) *Any notice required or authorised by this Act to be served* shall be sufficiently served if it is left at the last-known place of abode or business in the United Kingdom of the ... person to be served ...

"(5) The provisions of this section *shall extend to notices required to be served by any instrument affecting property executed or coming* into operation after the commencement of this Act unless a contrary intention appears."

Mr Stephen Fletcher for the first defendant; Mr David Daly for Wandsworth; the second defendant did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said the issue could be narrowed to the question: was the service of the notice to quit valid service in accordance with section 196(5) of *the 1925 Act?*

Section 196(5) differed from the immediately preceding subsections in that it referred to "notices required to be served by any instrument affecting property" but not to notices "authorised" so to be served.

By section 205(1), the definition section, "instrument" did not include a statute. It followed that an *argument that notice to quit* was required by the Protection from Eviction Act 1977 was to no avail.

On the other hand, in his Lordship's judgment the "acceptance of offer" document signed by Mr Donald had been or had contained the essential terms of *Mr Donald's tenancy agreement, and was an "instrument" for the purposes of section 196(5).*

The question could therefore be narrowed still further: was the notice to quit "required" to be served by the tenancy agreement? Neither the researches of counsel nor of the court had revealed any authoritative decision in answer to that question, which seemed *surprising in relation to a provision* which had been in force for nearly 70 years, and a situation which must have arisen with some frequency.

In his Lordship's judgment, a tenancy agreement which made no express *provision for the service of a notice to quit to determine the* tenancy did not "require" such a notice to be served. Thus in that situation section 196(5) did not apply.

For those reasons, his Lordship would allow the appeal and set aside the order for possession granted to the council against both *defendants*.

The moral for landlords was clear.

If they wished to render valid and effective service of a notice to quit by leaving it at the premises the subject of the lease, without proving that it came to the attention of the lessee, they were obliged to: (i) *make express provision for such a method of service in the tenancy agreement;* and (ii) prove the terms of the agreement in any action for possession following service of such a notice.

Lord Justice Waite delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ceres & Co, Brixton; Mr Martin Walker, Wandsworth.

Recovering in excess of convention limit

Antwerp United Diamonds BVBA and Another v Air Europe (a Firm)

The owners of a consignment of diamonds were entitled to recover in excess of the sum specified in a special declaration of interest they had made, in accordance with article 22(2) a) of the Warsaw Convention, as amended by the Hague Protocol of 1955, and which had been given the force of law in England under the Carriage by Air Act 1961, when the limits of liability specified by article 22(2)(a) had been *found not to apply by reason* of proof of conduct on the part of the carrier of the sort described in article 25 of the Convention.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Otton) so held on March 22 in a reserved judgment when dismissing the appeal of Air Europe against the decision of Mr Justice Phillips in the Commercial Court on December 18, 1992, *whereby he resolved* a preliminary issue in favour of *Antwerp United Diamonds BVBA and the Excess Insurance Co Ltd who sued on their own behalf* and on behalf of all other insurers subscribing to an insurance policy.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that it was important to stress that in all run-of-the-mill cases the declared limit would apply. It was only where the consignor was able to prove the very strict criteria laid down in article 25 that the limit would be lifted. In such cases of extreme misconduct, either on the part of the carrier or of *those servants and agents for whom he was legally responsible, it did not seem to be unjust* that the limit should be lifted.

Risking the loss of property belonging to another

Regina v Fernandes

Section 6 of the Theft Act 1968 could apply to a person in possession or control of another's property who, dishonestly and for *his own purpose*, dealt with that property in such a manner that he knew he was risking its loss.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Auld, Mr Justice Mantell and Mr Justice Sachs) so held in a reserved judgment on April 12 when *allowing the appeal of* Roland Anthony Francis Fernandes against his conviction on February 10, 1993 in Luton Crown Court (Judge Davies and a jury) of one count of procuring the execution of a valuable security by deception, but dismissing his appeals against conviction of a further count on the same indictment of theft, and of *two counts of theft on a second indictment on which he was convicted in March 1993.*

LORD JUSTICE AULD said the appellant submitted, in reliance on R v Lloyd ([1985] QB 529), that the first limb of section 6(1) of the 1968 Act was restricted to the taking and resale or attempted resale to the owner, and that the second was restricted to a borrower's treatment of property in such a way as to render it valueless on return.

But section 6(1), which was expressed in general terms, was not limited in its application to the illustrations in *Lloyd. The critical* notion, *stated expressly in the first limb and incorporated by reference in the second*, was whether a defendant "intended to treat the thing as his own to dispose of regardless of the other's rights".

Act applies within boundary

O'Fee v Copeland Borough Council

Section 2(1) of the Clean Air Act 1993 was intended to apply to dark smoke emitted into the air within the boundaries of any industrial or trade premises and not limited to an emission beyond those boundaries.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Keene) so stated on March 9 when dismissing an appeal by Tom Gordon O'Fee by case stated from Carlisle Crown Court (Judge Brown and justices) which *on May 13, 1994 had dismissed his appeal from conviction* by Whitehaven Justices in February, 1994 of an offence contrary to section 2(1) for which he was fined £1,000.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the expression "emitted from land" in section 2(1) read with section 64, where the definition of premises included "land", included a movement above the surface of the ground within the boundaries of the land occupied. His Lordship saw no reason why "*emission*" *should be limited to a movement beyond those boundaries.*

An important purpose of the Act was to abate pollution of the air. There was no indication that air above the relevant land or premises was to be excluded.

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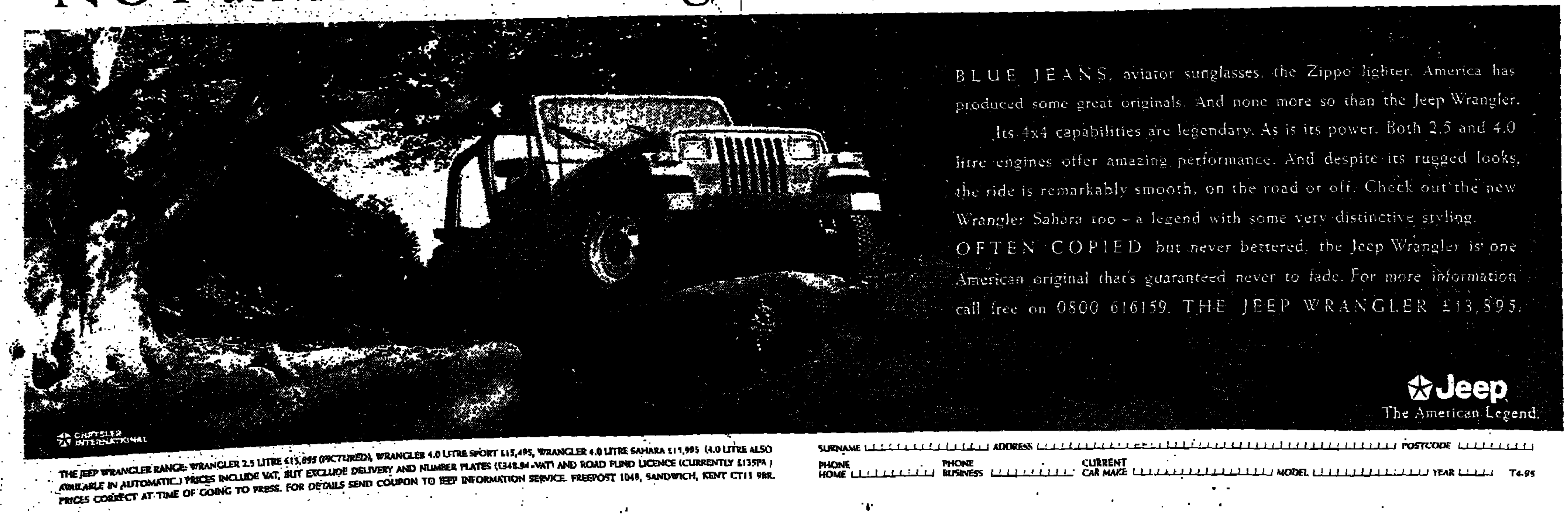

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In the first extract from his provocative book, **Peter Brimelow** argues that America's lax immigration policy is threatening disaster

Drowning in a flood of people

THE PUBLICATION of Peter Brimelow's book Alien Nation: Common Sense About America's Immigration Disaster *is causing a stir in America that is being compared to last year's row over* The Bell Curve, *Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray's study of intelligence and race. Brimelow, himself an English immigrant and a former* Times *columnist, is being attacked for his argument that the renewed mass immigration triggered by the 1965 Immigration Act does not benefit Americans and is in fact overwhelmingly unpopular. Last week* The New York Times *said it was "the benchmark case against immigration as it is currently taking place".*

There is a sense in which current immigration policy is Adolf Hiter's posthumous revenge on America. The US political elite emerged from the war passionately concerned to cleanse itself from all taints of racism or xenophobia. Eventually, it enacted the epochal Immigration Act (technically the Immigration and Nationality Act Amendment) of 1965. And this, quite accidentally, triggered a renewed mass immigration, so huge and so systematically different from anything that had gone before as to transform — and ultimately, perhaps, even to destroy — the one unquestioned victor of the Second World War: the American nation, as it had evolved by the middle of the 20th century.

"Still," *Time* magazine wrote in its Fall 1993 Special Issue on Multiculturalism, "for the first time in its history, the US has an immigration policy that, for better or worse, is truly democratic."

As an immigrant, albeit one who came to America rather earlier than yesterday and is now an American citizen, I find myself asking with fascination: what can this possibly mean? American immigration policy has always been democratic, of course, in the sense that it has been made through democratic procedures. Right now, as a matter of fact, it's unusually undemocratic, in that Americans have told pollsters long and loudly that they don't want any more immigration: but the politicians ignore them.

"Immigrants built America!" Americans are incessantly told. Again, as an immigrant, I don't agree. There is surprising evidence that immigration is, and probably always has been, much less important to American economic growth than is conventionally assumed. America took off, economically and indeed morally, in the colonial era. That momentum continues, albeit now increasingly obscured.

But note that I am not saying that immigration, particularly selected immigration, is always without value — just that it is at most a luxury rather than a necessity. For example, I am arguably displacing an American-born worker as a senior editor at *Forbes* magazine. I naturally like to think that my employers would miss my unique contribution. However, I am fairly sure that they would survive.

As a financial journalist, I am professionally inclined to find the economic argument about immigration compelling. But I know from experience that it is not. People habitually justify their immigration preferences in economic terms, but really they are motivated by a wide range of ethnic, moral and even psychological agendas. These agendas are not necessarily illegitimate (although most Americans would find some rather startling if they realised what they were). The point, however, is that they should be discussed.

Taboos are not just a matter of cowardice and mendacity. They also reflect a sincere human reluctance to give offence (which is why they tend to become rampant in diverse societies). Although it may sometimes appear otherwise, I am not abnormally anxious to give offence.

Race and ethnicity are destiny in American politics. The racial and ethnic balance of America is being radically altered through public policy. This can only have the most profound effects. Is this what Americans want?

And the taboo that prevents this simple reality from being debated also prevents discussion of the most obvious irrationalities in current immigration policy — such as its perverse *de facto* discrimination against skilled immigrants; and against those countries that, by accident, were not first through the door after 1965.

America's immigration system is broke and needs fixing. The only issue is: how much?

And what do Americans want? I don't believe, after long and careful inspection, that they want anything very terrible for their fellow human beings. They seem to me as if they would accept any immigrant, of any complexion including plaid, given minimum goodwill and good intentions. But there are limits. Enough, as Americans invariably say in private conversation, is enough.

This is not an unreasonable position. Unfortunately, and greatly to the discredit of the American political elite, there is no longer a respectable language in which to express it.

Nevertheless, when you debate immigration with its American enthusiasts, you reach the pained assertion "But America's different!" in just two or three exchanges. This is an alarming indication of how desperately thin the substantive arguments for this immense historic gamble turn out to be, when given even the most casual prod.

You can hardly argue with this sort of faith. But you can doubt it. A generation ago, anti-Vietnam War demonstrators wittily retorted to the prospect of the military draft: "Not with my life you don't!" Now, we might reasonably say to advocates of this new adventure: "Not with my child's future you don't!"

I mean this literally. There is confusion nowadays about what it means to be a "nation" and a "nation-state" but, essentially, a nation is a sort of extended family. It links individual and group, parent and child, past and future, in ways that reach beyond the rational to the most profound and elemental in the human experience.

In 1990, for instance, almost one child in every 20 enrolled in American public schools either could not speak English or spoke it so poorly as to need language-assistance programmes. This number is increasing with striking speed: only six years earlier, it had been one child in 31. Current law is generally interpreted as requiring schools to educate such children in their native language. To do so, according to one California estimate, requires spending some 65 per cent more per child than on an English-speaking child.

Of native-born Americans 2.3 per cent now do not speak English "very well" and 1.2 per cent are "linguistically isolated" — living in households where no one aged 14 or over speaks only English or speak English "very well". Astonishingly, nearly a third of the immigrants who entered the country between 1980 and 1990 *and had become US citizens* were "linguistically isolated" — although until 1990, English proficiency was usually a condition of naturalisation.

The mass immigration so thoughtlessly triggered in 1965 risks making America an alien nation — not merely in the sense that the numbers of aliens in the nation are rising to levels last seen in the 19th century; not merely in the sense that America will become a freak among the world's nations because of the unprecedented demographic mutation it is inflicting on itself; not merely in the sense that Americans themselves will become alien to each other, requiring an increasingly strained Government to arbitrate between them; but, ultimately, in the sense that Americans will no longer share in common what Abraham Lincoln called in his First Inaugural Address "the mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave, to ever living heart and hearth stone, all over this broad line . . ."

And that when the time comes to strike those chords, no sweet sound will result.

The second extract from Peter Brimelow's book will appear on Monday.

British unity in diversity

Mary Ann Sieghart detects a change in national attitudes

What is Britishness? Is it more than the sum of its parts — or less? Many Scots and not a few Welsh believe that Britishness is no more than a disguised version of Englishness. Exploring the questions of national identity for the BBC, I have just visited three towns with the same name — one each in Scotland, Wales and England — to try to discover whether there is an overarching sense of identity that it still makes sense to call British.

Nobody in Newport, Shropshire, had a problem with Britishness. In Newport, Gwent, some of the Welsh felt British, though others preferred to call themselves European. But it was in Newport-on-Tay, near Dundee, that we found the greatest reluctance to sign up to a common identity of Britishness.

Here is Billy Kay, a local writer: "The British identity that I'm supposed to feel part of I see as being first of all an imperial identity through the Empire and then an identity which has been forced by the idea of people coming together to fight two world wars. I don't think that's a healthy identity to carry into the 21st century."

This is a common complaint — that Britishness is something from the past that has little relevance today. When the Act of Union was signed in 1707, people had to be persuaded to attach an extra loyalty to their long-standing allegiance to region or nation.

Successive governments used the common religion of Protestantism as a propaganda weapon to encourage the English, Scottish and Welsh to unite around a common flag — and against Catholic enemies.

The Empire — which was always the British, not the English Empire — was also a unifying force. It drew heavily on the expertise of the Scots and Welsh as doctors, traders, explorers and administrators.

Then there was the monarchy. Queen Victoria perhaps perfected the art of being monarch to all of Britain and the Empire. Meanwhile, successive wars have brought Britons together in defence of the Empire and the Union. It was the Battle of Britain, not the Battle of England, that took place over the Channel and southern counties.

But history is history: the Empire has gone, the Church no longer binds us, the Armed Forces are shrinking and the monarchy is troubled. Some people feel that the glue of nationhood has dried up. Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish nationalists, no longer wants to be attached to what he sees as a Britain in decline. He looks to Europe as Scotland's new stage.

So do a surprising number in Newport, Gwent. Alan Richards, a sales director, has found that doing business with Europe has changed his outlook. "I see our future very much as being linked to Europe as a whole; that includes England. I see England merely as part of Europe."

But he is still unusual: probably a majority of the Welsh still think of themselves as British too. We are all capable of overlapping loyalties and identities — Britishness need not detract from Welshness. And as a nation we have a surprising amount in common. We are good at winning wars together. We are all good explorers, travellers, traders, philanthropists and inventors. We share a sense of fair play, and probity in public life. We respect the law.

These British values and ways of thinking that we all share have been somewhat eclipsed by Scottish and Welsh strivings for national identity. So frustrated are they by English political domination that they have allowed themselves to forget how much the nations of Britain still have in common.

Some people see the devolution of power to Scotland and Wales as a threat to the Union. But it could be that, by venting their difference through politics, the Scots and Welsh would feel more comfortable as part of the joint enterprise called Great Britain.

Mary Ann Sieghart appears on The Big Picture: The Break-Up of Britain? BBC2 tomorrow, 7pm.

Who's afraid of terrorism?

The hysterical reaction to this week's outrage is dangerous. Governments must not be intimidated

Simon Jenkins

KATZ

Oklahoma aftermath: the media become an accomplice to the outrage, magnifying not reporting it

After the aftermath comes the after-aftermath. President Clinton's damning of the Oklahoma car bombers had the fax machines in *The Times* letters department clattering within minutes. Now he knows what a terrorist is really like. Now let him shake hands with Gerry Adams. Now America can feel the sting of a tourism boycott. How would Mr Clinton feel about us welcoming the Oklahoma bombers to Buckingham Palace?

There is no end to the mishmash of hysteria and hypocrisy, of humbug and grief pornography that the modern terrorist can unleash. Like Conrad's anarchist, "He walks frail, insignificant, shabby, miserable — and terrible in the simplicity of his idea, calling madness and despair to the regeneration of the world". Yet we all start dancing to his tune, even I in writing this column. For the terror is not in the act. It is in the response. Three hundred other innocents were mindlessly slaughtered last week across the globe. Three hundred died on the streets and in homes of America, victims of that country's love of guns. Their killers incur no presidential ire.

The Oklahoma killers merely detonated a bomb and people died. To elevate this massacre above the mass of slaughters, to sanctify it as terrorism, they needed the help of the press and public. We duly obliged. Now we cry, "Nowhere in America is safe!" We drool over the cuttings, rerun old footage, explain how bombs are made, pump oxygen into every crackpot that craves publicity. All the vulnerabilities of any American, or British, building, street, park or person are held up to horrified gaze. The media become an accomplice to the outrage, not in reporting it but in extrapolating a single act and magnifying it a million times. A mass murder is generalised and dusted with politics. The world is invited to be terrified. The terrorist's work is then — but only then — complete.

Nobody who has walked through the carnage of a London or a Belfast IRA car bomb can doubt the destructive force of these weapons. (Mr Clinton should indeed know how sickened Britons were when he welcomed the men who wield them to his home.) But the force was nothing compared to the impact those bombs had on British life. That was the IRA's real achievement. Public buildings were turned into fortresses. Ministers were driven behind bullet-proof glass. Machineguns and flak-jackets sprouted at airports and conference centres. Shopping bags were searched. Cars were scrutinised. That symbol of democracy, the Downing Street right-of-way, was closed and barred.

These measures did not make anyone much safer. They merely demanded greater ingenuity of the bomber. He could not get near the Prime Minister, so he must blow up an entire hotel. He could not drive into Downing Street, so he must lob his missile over the gates. The US and India have the most closely protected leaders in the world. Two have been shot in both countries in the recent past. In Britain we shall never know how many lives or limbs were saved by the biggest peacetime security investment ever. We only know of the regularity with which the IRA penetrated that security.

Defensive measures cannot stop bombings or shootings. The suicide bomber, the telescopic assassin, the demented killer, the sarin poisoner will have his way occasionally. Security is mere psychological first aid, to counter the psychological terror of the outrage. The bomber by definition wishes to destabilise the State. The State responds by reassuring its citizens that it is back in control. It does so with guards and guns and searches and summary arrests, because those are the natural "default modes" of those in authority. If such shows of authority inflame terror, undermine civil rights or boost the esteem of the killers, too bad. In the vicious circle of terror and repression, repression will never be found wanting.

I believe there is an alternative course. It derives from the pacifist tradition, with which I have a strictly selective sympathy. This course reiterates that the power of terrorism lies not in an act but in an act-plus-a-response. The task is not to stop the act, which is impossible, but to condition the response. The killers must be pursued assiduously, but their actions must not be given inflated significance. They are ghastly accidents, as they must seem to their victims. Like earthquakes, fires or motorway pile-ups, they leave their human debris. But they are signs of deranged minds, not a deranged society.

In other words, we refuse to be terrified. We commiserate with the victims, assert the primacy of the judicial process and go about our business. I remember being shocked when Americans cancelled their European holidays in response to IRA bombings, and even to their own bombing of Tripoli in 1986. They were scared by facile media images. They stopped thinking and abandoned any sensible risk assessment. (The most dangerous place for an American tourist is in America.) They gave terrorism its biggest boost. I hope Britons respond to the Oklahoma massacre by making Oklahoma a tourist destination this year.

Every incident such as Oklahoma City is pounced on by the hobgoblins of the security industry. They offer to sell body armour and bomb-proof cars. They offer reinforced glass and radar scanners. They offer to whisk very important people from one "close protection" scene to another. They can turn every office into an Alcatraz and entomb every public official in a windowless bunker. You can never be too safe, they say. You can never say no to security. Woe betide the official who does. This argument converted even a reluctant Margaret Thatcher to the obnoxious Downing Street barrier in 1989.

It so happens that next month a report is being published on government buildings in and round Whitehall. It will show how much of the area has been closed to the public in the past two decades to protect officials and ministers from the IRA. Downing Street has been shut. Richmond Terrace has been shut. Theatreland parking in the area has been banned. In a glaring inconsistency, Horse Guards Parade has been left open for parking, despite being next to both Downing Street and the Northern Ireland Office. Vehicles enter uninspected every day. But since it is used by senior officials, demands that the Parade be restored as open space, whether for aesthetic or security reasons, have been resisted.

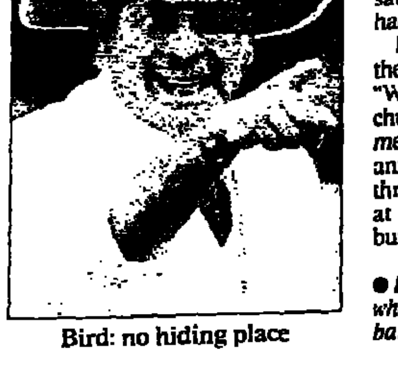
The report will propose the removal of the Downing Street barrier and the restoration of the right-of-way past No 10. It also wants to see free access to the courtyards of the Treasury, Foreign Office and Old Admiralty buildings and the landscaping of the glorious spaces facing St James's Park. Yet when news of the report leaked on Thursday, the response was that it could hardly have come at a worse time. Government would be shaking with fear after the Oklahoma bomb. There was little chance of cutting back on security. Indeed security firms would doubtless be stepping up their sales.

The Whitehall report could not be better timed. Tearing down the barriers and taking out the anti-suicide bomber ramp would be a low-risk act of faith in peace in Northern Ireland. It would be a gesture of more open government. When crazed murderers strike in Oklahoma, a British government does not react by being scared. It makes an emphatic gesture of fearlessness. It asserts normality.

THE TIMES DIARY

Spotted Dickie

WITH THE arrival of the cricket season, Dickie Bird will be hoping for a bit of a rest. The doyen of Test umpires did not have the most relaxing of pre-season breaks. His recent holiday in the sun to recharge his batteries after the winter Tests in India and Pakistan was a trial. The mistake was to choose Barbados, where cricket is more of a religion than a national pastime.



Bird: no hiding place

In shops he was greeted with excited handshakes and slaps on the back. In restaurants he was fêted by waiters and managers. A stroll on the beach was like a royal progress.

The mild-mannered Yorkshireman eventually sought refuge from the crowds in a packed Methodist church, where he hoped to sit in quiet contemplation. "I went in and sat at the back and felt sure no one had recognised me," he says.

Far from it. He was spotted by the minister conducting the service. "We have a great man in the church today, ladies and gentlemen," the reverend gentleman announced to his assembled throng. "Mr Dickie Bird is sitting at the back." The congregation burst into spontaneous applause.

● *Remorse got the better of a thief who recently stole a clump of bamboo from Lord Harewood's Yorkshire estate. Christopher Ussher, resident agent, received an anonymous letter from the culprit. "IOU," it read. "I cut some sticks of bamboo from your estate near the big house. I hope this £5 is enough."*

Old timer

NEWS FROM the borders: Radio 4's *Gardeners' Question Time* believes it has discovered Britain's oldest aspidistra. The discovery follows talk some weeks ago on the programme of a 50-year-old version of the Victorian pot-plant with enormous leaves.

Tomorrow *Gardeners' Question Time* will report on an aspidistra which is claimed by its owner to be three times that age. The news came in a letter from a Northamptonshire listener. "I was very interested in the question regarding a 'young' aspidistra plant. I have a lovely variagated one and, at 85 years, am the fourth generation of being owner. At the moment it has 44 large leaves . . . it must be over 150 years old, and stands in my front porch: very hot in the summer and very very cold in winter."

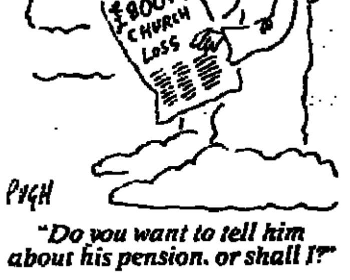
● *Best wishes for a speedy recovery to one of the Queen's most loyal servants, who is recovering in hospital after a heart attack. Palace steward Tony Jarrard, 60, was taken ill last Tuesday at Buckingham Palace. The Queen has sent a personal "get well" message to Jarrard, who has worked at the Palace for 42 years.*

Alas, Rosie

THE THESPIAN community in Swansea is mourning the passing of Rosie, the Grand Theatre's resident pig. The 18-stone porker was a huge hit with theatricals and audiences alike and will be sorely missed at rehearsals.

She belonged to one Caroline Williams, who provides lodgings to touring players. On her evening walks, Rosie became a regular at the stage door, where she would hog the limelight, shooting the breeze with friends.

"She got on particularly well with one of the Chippendales," says Williams. "She used to roll over and let him tickle her for hours. She was very docile and well behaved and loved to kiss the audience and players alike." Close friends attended her cremation last week. She never married.



"Do you want to tell him about his pension, or shall I?"

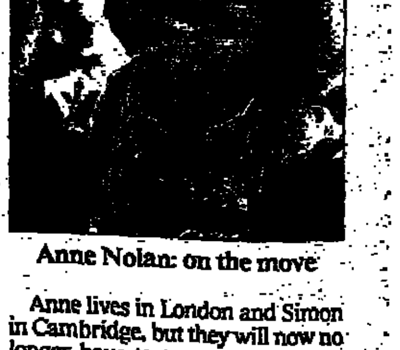
Light comedy

AFTER HIS extraordinary outburst against theatre critics at the Olivier Awards, Tony Slattery's most recent explosion was directed at London pubgoers. The comic was spotted in a West End bar the other day. "There's Tony Slattery," observed one drinker. "More like Tony *Fat*-tery," replied his pal.

Hearing this, Slattery leapt across the room. "I really don't think that's at all funny," he spluttered. "I'm not that fat really and I have been on a diet and it's not easy." With that he slouched away.

Wedding date

AS THE Nolan committee yesterday completed its report suggesting more measures to scrutinise MPs' behaviour, Lord Nolan may have been distracted by rather purer thoughts. His daughter Anne is to marry her long-term beau and fellow estate agent, Simon Yorke, in the autumn. They met five years ago at a New Year's Eve party.



Anne Nolan: on the move

Anne lives in London and Simon in Cambridge, but they will now no longer have to tear up and down the M11 for snatched moments. "We have agreed to move to Cambridge," she says. They will wed on October 21, a week after they had originally planned. As the groom explains, his future mother-in-law intervened. "Lady Nolan pointed out that it was the weekend the garden opens to the public."

P·H·S

هدية امن الاهل

LOVE AND LA PATRIE

French voters have a severe case of the seven-year itch

France's two-tier system for presidential elections allows its citizens to vote once with their heart, and a second time with their head. Or so it is often said: this year's campaign for the Elysée may prove to be an affair of the heart throughout.

Support for Edouard Balladur, who doggedly persists in claiming that France wants the sober truth, has halved in the course of the campaign. By last weekend, he was barely ahead of the extreme right-winger, Jean-Marie Le Pen. In sharp contrast, Jacques Chirac's extraordinary political comeback has been based on the intuition that France wants a new world laid at its feet. Of the nine suitors who will court the voters' favours tomorrow, only M Chirac can be certain that he will be fighting the second round which ends on May 7.

Even for M Chirac, the voters have been playing hard to get. Two-thirds of them grumble that the entire political class is corrupt. Tomorrow, more than a third are expected to vote for one of the six extreme-left, extreme-right, or other candidates who they know have no chance of victory. For many protest will not end there; they could well stay at home on May 7 in unpitying rejection of the choice before them.

France's seven-year itch is a cliché of political discourse. Each presidential contest brings with it jeremiads about the gulf between the governing élite and *la France profonde*. The 14 scandal-ridden years of François Mitterrand's highly interventionist presidency have given the charge more than usual force. So has the high cost in unemployment paid for France's determined clasp of the German mark. Strikes and street protests during the campaign have been one symptom; the volatile state of the electorate at this late stage of the race is another.

But in the nation de Gaulle famously dismissed as ungovernable — a description which most French people wear like a badge of pride — the "two nations" diagnosis, much touted by politicians for whom it is a useful shorthand, is deceptive. In the French character, egotistical individualism coexists with belief in social solidarity, a streak of anarchism with industrious daily habits and a solid sense of the family, the Jacobin with the Girondin. The national gene-pool has place for the Fronde and Richelieu, for Louis XIV and Lafayette, for Napoleon Bonaparte, the risk-taker, and for Talleyrand, the ultimate political survivor.

The dyspepsia of the moment does not, therefore, mean that France has turned against the quasi-monarchical constitution of the Fifth Republic. On the contrary: two-thirds of voters say that what they want is "a real leader who would restore order and be in command". If they really believed M Chirac's promises of a lighter presidential hand on the reins of power, his support would falter.

What the French do want is a clean break with the past 14 years: with Socialist cronyism, and with the uneasy compromises of left-right cohabitation. To have to defend any aspect of the past is a handicap. M Balladur complains that after only two years as Prime Minister he is seen, unfairly, as yesterday's man. But he has not helped his case by insisting that France need do no more than hold the course he has set.

Lionel Jospin, the plodding Socialist candidate, is still more heavily dogged by "incumbency". He refused the red rose, symbol of the heady *fête sociale* which ushered in the Socialist years, when it was pressed on him by a supporter last week. But he cannot credibly disown an egalitarian legacy which in the view of most French people has left their country more than ever polarised between the unemployed and insecure, and the middle class beneficiaries of a modernising, open economy.

If "Europe" has barely figured in this campaign, it is not because — as M Balladur contends — "the Maastricht debate has evaporated". It is because the French see Europe neither as cause of their anxieties about survival in a world of open competition and rapid social change, nor as the cure. Their eyes are turned inward, on a polity discredited by scandal at municipal as well as national level, in business as in politics. Hence the success of M Chirac's astute game of turncoat against France's powerful bureaucratic machine, and his vote-winning pledge to address *la fracture sociale*. His remedies may be as unaffordable as his opponents charge. But he has succeeded in rekindling some of the spirit of Gaullism's early radicalism. Arithmetic has little place in affairs of the heart.

WONDER HORSE

Celtic Swing races against Bellerophon — and even Pegasus

The performance of Celtic Swing in today's Greenham Stakes at Newbury will be watched with awed fascination by those who believe this elegant colt may be one of the greatest horses in history. Last year's juvenile champion set a course record at Ascot and is already favourite for the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby. Those who ride him say he is flawless. Those who watch — and bet — agree.

The quest for such a horse is what motivates those who are truly passionate about the sport of racing. Because so much effort is invested in horse-breeding, and training has become such an art, turf enthusiasts have long believed in the possibility of a perfect, unbeatable animal. In the century after the Restoration, about 100 stallions were imported to this country, at least one of whom, the Byerley Turk, had been taken from the Turks and ridden in battle. Since then, the evolution of the British thoroughbred has been at the heart of our nation's sporting life.

This quest is more than a specialist pursuit for wealthy owners, crafty trainers and hopeful punters. It appeals to man's ancestral instinct to find a horse of magical ability and tame him. In Greek myth, the winged horse Pegasus was said to have sprung from the blood of the Gorgon Medusa when she was beheaded. Ridden by Perseus and later by Bellerophon, Pegasus was a great ally to both before taking his place in the heavens as a constellation. There could be no more potent symbol of man's wish to tame the elusive beauty of nature, a wish that is never quite realised.

For centuries, this preoccupation has surfaced in legend and literature. Alexander the Great was said to be the only man who could mount his charger Bucephalus. In *The Squire's Tale*, Cambuscan, the king of Sarra, is given "the brazen horse", a magical stallion who can carry his rider anywhere. The tradition survives, albeit in a more vulgar form, in the enduring popularity of Dick Turpin's Black Bess, of Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty* and of the Lone Ranger's mount, Silver. The belief in the ideal horse still permeates our culture.

Celtic Swing may not live up to the awesome expectations that have already been made of him. Some say his pedigree is less than immaculate. Other sceptics point to previous horses who have triumphed as juveniles but failed in later life. Tromos, who achieved an extraordinarily high rating in 1978, achieved nothing thereafter. More recently, the French horse Arazi was not able to match his early performances with adult triumphs. Yet such failures have not diminished the hope that one day a truly perfect horse will tread the turf. Today, Celtic Swing will gallop in furious pursuit of that glory.

COKE SEC

Or make mine a clockwork orange juice

The names all sound as if they were dreamt up by Bob Dylan on a bad day, "stuck inside of Mobile" yet again with the Memphis blues. Blow deeply into your old harmonica, clear your throat, and read this aloud in a charcoal voice with Dylan's lengthened vowels: Appletise, Caledonian Clear, Raspberry Psychic Lemonade. And if you do that in a bar tomorrow, or in a public house, you are less likely to be ejected by the bouncing staff than to be served with a New Age beverage for Adults by someone from behind the counter.

"New Age" and "Adult" are words for whose custody a little skirmish will be fought. For long the preserve of those in our society with an unsavoury style of dress, odour and cinematic habit, they have now been adopted as emblems for their new products by vigorous soft drink corporations in America and Britain. Aqua Libra, Purdey's, Jive, Monsoon and Citrus Consciousness — the last belonging to Coca-Cola's new Fruitopia range — are just a fizzy splatter of examples.

Why would adults, new or fusty, enlightened or Neanderthal, choose to drink such beverages as these? And if the liquids are "texturally modified" — carbonated juice, complete with floating morsels of fruit and jelly — that question is even more piquant. The answer lies only partly in the insistent advertising employed by the makers of these drinks: "Obey your thirst," one tells us in imperative mood, reinforcing Mark Twain's observations in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* that "many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising".

Yet since these refreshments are neither naughtier nor nicer than our more traditional tipples, the real reasons for their increasing sales must lie elsewhere than in pretty jingles and potty posters. They are not cheap either: Aqua Libra costs as much as some table wines.

Could it be that New Age Adult men and women have awakened fully at last to the safety rules of the New Age road? The only greater taboos now in our society than drinking-and-driving are the sexual ones; but not only is it tedious to drink mineral water in a pub or wine bar, it is also far from stylish. The clockwork orange juice is clearly no better. Lemonade, for obvious reasons, is scorned by grown-ups; there is little point in drinking tonic water without an infusion of gin, and colas are, well, just colas. Been there, done that.

So bring on Ame and Orchid, Snapple and Kiri, Miro and Oasis, the style-samaritans of the sober. And bring them on in bottles of inventive shape and size, in cans of lurid colour, in glasses with swizzle sticks and sprigs of coriander. If these confections help the man who cannot drink alcohol to have some fun anyway, then long may they fizz at us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Accusations of 'vulgarity' at the National Film Theatre

From Mr Alexander Walker

Sir, I was a British Film Institute governor when, a year or two ago following a critical National Audit Office report, the board very cautiously sanctioned the screening of more "commercial" programmes at the National Film Theatre. I regret this now. What had been intended to retrieve vanishing audiences has been allowed to infiltrate the programming to an unacceptable degree that is threatening the BFI's cultural remit.

Your report, "Buffs accuse film theatre of mediocrity and vulgarity" (April 18), is well founded. The programmes now carry an overload of films that are concurrently playing in the West End or that come up with seasonal availability on the TV channels.

An unwarranted emphasis of interest is placed on "schlock" cinema, which has an admitted place in popular culture but not the preponderant glorification it regularly enjoys in seasons devoted to John Waters, Russ Meyer, gay and lesbian seasons or the ultra-violent Manga cartoons from Japan. This "schlock" is no longer balanced by scholarly and comprehensive seasons devoted to eras, individuals and institutions of exceptional and accepted importance in cinema history.

The NFT has recently lost several of its most erudite programmers through resignations prompted by the populist revisionism now entrenched there, and is paying for it.

Even more worrying are the recent tie-ups with commercial interests that have nothing to do with cinema. I do not refer to sponsorship, which is very welcome, but to a departure such as the "Exclusive NFT Music Offer" in the May programme which, like a mail-order catalogue, now advertises the launch of "a new music club" offering members the opportunity to buy CDs of "some of music's greats" — whether or not such "greats" have any connection at all with the cinema.

I believe this commercialisation is inappropriate to the cultural remit of the BFI charter, and may be contrary to the charitable status it at present enjoys. The BFI receives £17.1 million from the National Heritage Department.

It has no need to assert that cuts in its budget will jeopardise such estimable work as the preservation of old films — which was the BFI director's argument on suffering a £600,000 reduction in grant at the end of last year.

It desperately needs to re-order its priorities and acknowledge that the very generous current grant must be used for its cultural activities, even at a loss, and not for its commercial ambitions, even with profit in mind.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALEXANDER WALKER
(Film Critic, *Evening Standard*),
1 Marlborough,
38-40 Maida Vale, W9.
April 18.

From the Chairman of the British Film Institute

Sir, It is a matter for regret that your Arts Correspondent isolated the lesbian and gay screenings from the National Film Theatre's April programme as a whole, which ranges from 1930s Hollywood swashbuckling movies to Asian diasporan cinema, from a season of Shakespeare on film to a survey of contemporary independent American cinema. This is not to mention the first screening of the British director Tony Richardson's last film, *Blue Sky*.

More generally, the NFT's commitment to deeply researched seasons continues unabated. For example, next year will see a two-month complete retrospective of the great director Howard Hawks. How can such a generous range, containing what it does, be condemned as "mediocre and vulgar"?

When an unnamed critic says the NFT is to the film world what the National Gallery is to the art world, it would be more accurate to say that it is a combination of the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery: ie, its responsibility is to classic and contemporary cinema, to British cinema and to world cinema. This responsibility is fully shouldered in this month's programme.

The developments in the NFT's programming policy followed extensive internal discussions and have been endorsed by the board of governors. They have also enjoyed considerable public success: there has been a substantial increase in NFT attendances and in membership and recent research by Gallup confirms that the members' "satisfaction levels" with the programming policy are "exceptionally high".

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY THOMAS,
Chairman,
British Film Institute,
21 Stephen Street, W1.
April 18.

Christian teaching on a proper order of obligations

From the Reverend T. Richard Harrison

Sir, Matthew Parris, facing the intellectual challenge of the Christian faith (column, April 17), cannot have it both ways. He comments that the Oxford science writer Richard Dawkins is correct when he says "Absolutes are an inadequate substitute for thought", and then proceeds to list a variety of ethical situations requiring thought. If Christian teaching were to provide an order of priority to enable us to rank our obligations, he would presumably complain that no thought was required.

The truth of the matter is that everything is important in its time. If I meet somebody beaten up on the pavement whilst on my way to visit my mother, it does not mean that I regard the one in need of urgent attention as being more important than my mother.

Life is full of these moral choices every day. Since when did Jesus not care about family life? He was the one who turned to His mother whilst dying on the Cross and commended her to John, so that she should receive adequate comfort.

When He taught that we should place our relationship with Him on a higher level than our relationship with any of our family members, He was only underlining the truth we all must face, namely that sooner or later we shall have to say goodbye to each member of the family.

But Jesus will be there when I am dying and because He is the Resurrection and the Life I shall need Him more than my own mother — bless her!

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD HARRISON,
5 Havers Lane,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.
April 17.

From the Reverend Stephen Coneys

Sir, It is true that the greatest challenge and dilemma of any deontological (principle or rule-based) ethical system is that the obligations it generates must be "ranked". And Matthew Parris is right that Jesus, being no legalist, had no intention of issuing instructions for every conceivable ethical dilemma.

But in suggesting that the Christian response to the ethical challenge is that we should "cast ourselves upon His guidance, which would come direct to our hearts", he shows his grip on the faith (at this point) to be tenuous.

Jesus came to stimulate our response to God His Father, and to each other — not to make it for us. He knew, and demonstrated in His own life, that it is the peculiar glory and the painful responsibility of human beings to make difficult choices. Hard moral cases are hard precisely because the responsibility to make loving, just choices is ours. To expect Jesus or the faith He founded to remove this responsibility is to misunderstand it badly.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN CONEYS,
St Alphege House,
11 Kimberley Grove,
Seasalter, Whitstable, Kent.
Easter Monday.

From Professor John Warwick Montgomery

Sir, Matthew Parris claims that the Christian religion "offers neither instruction nor guidance nor even hint, as to how we are to 'rank' our moral obligations".

Here are just three of many biblical prioritisings: "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts v, 29). "If any provide not for … those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Timothy v. 8). "Ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew x, 31).

God before men; family duties before other duties; human rights before animal rights.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARWICK MONTGOMERY,
University of Luton,
School of Law and Humanities,
Park Square, Luton, Bedfordshire.
April 18.

Future for Cyprus

From the High Commissioner for Cyprus

Sir, The premise of your article, "Will Europe unite the divided island?" (April 11), appeared to be that, through setting a date to begin talks on accession to the European Union, Cyprus hopes to resolve the Cyprus problem in its own favour; and that, if the problem is not resolved before accession, it will be inherited by the EU. Both presumptions are false.

Mr Alecos Michaelides, our Foreign Minister, has said the Government favours an equitable solution before accession talks. That would enable both communities to look forward together to a future within the EU.

However, Cyprus is already a European state, with an economy and a political system consonant with EU membership. In 1994 manufacturing output, exports, imports and consumer spending increased significantly.

Cyprus also provides stability in a potentially volatile region, acting as a springboard for EU business in the Middle East.

There are therefore two separate issues. The illegal occupation of the northern part of Cyprus by Turkey is long overdue for a just settlement. Early Cypriot accession is justified on its own merits.

Yours faithfully,
ANGELOS M. ANGELIDES,
Cyprus High Commission,
93 Park Street, W1.
April 13.

Through a glass darkly

From Mr V. A. Martin

Sir, I was puzzled why the car ahead of me recently, displaying a large sign, "Clairvoyant", was also in the motorway traffic jam.

Do crystal balls require a service?

Yours faithfully,
V. A. MARTIN,
22 Carisbrooke Drive,
Halesowen, West Midlands.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Pressures of tourism

From Mr Neil Sinden

Sir, You are to be congratulated on your series on the growing environmental and cultural impact of tourism ("The tourist trap", April 15, 17, 18). What is less welcome is the suggestion in your leading article ("Trippers' catch-22", April 18) that more effective management of the pressures is all that is required.

Your reports on the Lake District, Stour Valley, and various historic cities clearly show the immense environmental pressures associated with tourism and leisure, including traffic congestion, pressure for inappropriate development and physical wear and tear on buildings and landscapes.

These problems are, in our view, exacerbated by government policies and the promotional work of bodies like the English Tourist Board and the British Tourist Authority. The House of Commons Environment Committee, which is examining the environmental impact of leisure activities will, it is hoped, take a critical look at existing public policy in this area.

Though so far reluctant to embrace its environmental responsibilities, the Department of National Heritage is in an ideal position to develop policies and institute reforms which set the more imaginative direction which you, and others, are seeking. The tourist boards pay little more than lip service to the environment. They should be placed under a statutory duty to respect and further environmental objectives — for the long-term health of the tourist industry as well as the urban and rural environment.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL SINDEN (Assistant Secretary,
Planning and Heritage),
Council for the Protection
of Rural England,
Warwick House,
25 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1.
April 18.

Visitors' passports

From Mr Howard Davies

Sir, The letter (April 8) from William Gibbons of the Passenger Shipping Association (PSA) on the abolition of the British visitor's passport (BVP) highlights a concern which is equally shared by our members.

The majority of UK citizens who travel by air do so for leisure purposes. The availability of the BVP has provided the flexibility for them to take advantage of any late offers or to make arrangements to travel at short notice in general.

The popularity of the BVP is such that nearly two million were issued during 1994-95. The insistence on a full passport may discourage or prevent some from travelling.

We share the view of the PSA that until an acceptable voluntary UK identity card which can be used for travel purposes is introduced the BVP should be retained.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD DAVIES
(Secretary General,
British Air Transport Association),
5-6 Pall Mall East, SW1.

One in the eye

From Mr Michael Noakes

Sir, Mr Brian Taylor (letter, April 20) is not alone. In my case the scene was a private view of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. An elderly acquaintance made his way across the crowd to me: "I just wanted to say that I went round the exhibition with Enoch this morning, and he said that there was only one painter here whose work was really worth looking at. Such command of colour and tone, such panache in composition, such ability to reveal both the character and the personality of the sitter …".

I was beginning to look decidedly pleased. "Anyway", he continued, "it's always good to hear of complimentary things said about you, isn't it? Well done, Charles".

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NOAKES,
146 Hamilton Terrace, NW8.
April 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Animal exports and 'inhumanity'

From Mr David Gibbon

Sir, The judges' ruling in the live transport of animals case (report, April 13) follows a fine old tradition of English justice that would have been quite familiar to William Wilberforce. Here we have judges defending the commercial interests of the modern-day equivalents of the slave traders — the evil transporters of live animals, many of them with criminal records for animal cruelty, who, in the case of veal calves, export animals into a system of "husbandry" so manifestly inhumane that it is completely illegal in this country.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GIBBON,
145 Mayfield Road, Edinburgh 9.

From Sir David Mitchell, MP for Hampshire North West (Conservative)

Sir, Are animal "rights" protesters blind to the reality that their efforts are increasing the very suffering they seek to mitigate?

There are communities on the Continent who demand freshly slaughtered meat. There are slaughterhouses and butchers who supply these demands. The quantity required is not altered according to the source of the supply.

So the result of the efforts of the so-called animal rights demonstrators is to substitute for the short sea voyage from British ports a long sea voyage from the Republic of Ireland and (in greater measure) the cruelty of immensely long journeys from Spain, Italy, Greece *et al*, none of them noted for their tender loving care of animals.

In short the net achievement of our portside mobs is to increase the totality of animal suffering; not to mention destroying the legitimate livelihood of many UK farmers. Is the animal rights lobby really so lacking in logic that it cannot recognise that fact?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MITCHELL,
House of Commons.
April 19.

Over-fishing

From Dr G. C. L. Bertram

Sir, A temporary hake measurer was I, for the Ministry, in stormy seas off St Kilda over the Christmas season 65 years ago. We young biologists from Cambridge all knew about over-fishing (letters, April 14, 20) and attempts to check it. Dead, miniature hake by the ton we counted and shovelled overboard, and in those days likewise Dublin Bay prawns (now best scampi) and squid (both then unsaleable).

Universal uncontrolled greed is the origin of over-fishing: that which has no immediate legal ownership is grabbed for profit until it becomes too expensive. That is why fish-farming, with clear private ownership, now can flourish.

European wars allow fish stocks to rebuild but then, twice in my own lifetime, greed again has conquered. For us today plankton-feeding managed mussels should be a main source of marine protein until one day sense may reign.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. L. BERTRAM,
Ricardo's,
Graffham, Petworth, Sussex.

Rousing anthem

From Mr Ian H. Thain

Sir, Rather than advocate a rewriting of "the awful second verse" (Mr Brian North Lee's letter, April 15), I propose instead that we might sing it more frequently.

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter our enemies
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks;
On thee our hopes we fix:
God save us all.

Criticism of this verse is nothing new; it was once suggested to Queen Victoria that something less fiercely patriotic might be more socially "acceptable". Her Majesty considered the suggestion and promptly dismissed it, judging that she saw no reason to alter anything as the words expressed exactly what she wanted.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAN THAIN,
30 Marlborough Road,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
April 17.

In vino veritas

From Mr Michael D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, Mr John Ullman's problem about serving guests the vintage or non-vintage champagne first (letter, April 19) is not a "dilemma" (Mr Anthony Davies's letter, April 20), it is an embarrassment. If he cannot afford to serve vintage champagne only, he should simply provide non-vintage, or better still — if snob value can be laid aside — a good prosecco or sekt.

That Mr Ullman is considering serving vintage champagne only to those he judges might know the difference speaks for itself: if he has guests who could not tell the difference, he should serve a cheap liebfraumilch to everyone.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road, W6.
April 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 21: Today is the sixty ninth *Anniversary of the Birthday of The* Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of Council, St George's House, this morning attended a meeting of Council, followed by Luncheon, at St George's House, Windsor.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 21: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this morning *left Heathrow Airport, London*, for Miami, Florida, United States of America.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 21: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, today visited 27 Regiment at Buller *Barracks, Aldershot, Surrey.*

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 21: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, today visited the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Barker Barracks, Paderborn, Germany.

Captain Marcus Barnett was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this morning *arrived at London Heathrow Airport* from Adelaide, South Australia.

Miss Helen Tughan was in attendance.

Royal engagements

Today
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the Burma Star Association, will attend the association's 49th reunion at the Albert Hall at 6.30.

Tomorrow
The Duke of Edinburgh will review The Queen's Scouts at Windsor Castle at 2.00

Weekend birthdays

Lady Gabriella Windsor is 14 tomorrow.

Today
Mr Leo Abse, former MP, 78; Lord Airedale, 80; Sir Michael Atiyah, OM, president, Royal Society, 66; Sir Christopher Ball, former Warden, Keble College, Oxford, 60; Mr Lewis Biggs, curator, Tate Gallery, Liverpool, 43; Mr Alan Bond, company chairman and yachtsman, 57; *Mr Peter Bowring, for*mer chairman, C.T. Bowring, 72; *Mlle Yvette Chauviré,* ballerina assoluta, 78; Sir John Chilcot, civil servant, 56; Mr George Cole, actor, 70; Mr Alan Dukes, a vice-president, Fine Gael Party, 50; Dr Eric Fenby, composer, 89; Major-General Sir John Foley, 56; Mr Peter Goldstein, joint founder, Superdrug, 55; Mr Lloyd *Honeyghan,* boxer, 35; *Mr Ronald* Hynd, choreographer, 64; Mr *Robert Key, MP, 50; Mr Archy* Kirkwood, MP, 49; Mr Nico Ladenis, *restaurateur,* 61; Mr Geoffrey Marshall, Provost, The Queen's College, Oxford, 66; Lord Menuhin, OM, 79; Mr Jack Nicholson, actor, director and producer, 58; the Earl of Oxford and Asquith, 79; Miss Margaret Pereira, forensic scientist, 67; Viscount Portman, 61; Sir David Ratford, *diplomat, 61; Miss Jancis* Robinson, wine writer and broad*caster, 45; Professor Sir Eric* Scowen, physician, 85; Mr C.H. Sisson, CH, writer and poet, 81; Mr David Summerscale, Head Master, Westminster School, 58; Sir Robert Wade-Gery, diplomat, 66.

Tomorrow
Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former actress and American diplomat, 67; the Most Rev Michael Bowen, Archbishop of Southwark, 65; Mr Bill Cotton, former managing *director, BBC Television, 67; Mr* Antony Craxton, television producer, *77; Mr J.P. Donleavy,* author, 69; Sir Diarmuid Downs, automotive engineer, 73; Lady Dudley, 88; Mr David Evans, MP, 60; Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden, 51; the Hon Victoria Glendinning, author, 58; Mr William Hagerty, former Editor, *The People*, 56; Sir Arnold *Hall, former chairman,* Hawker Siddeley Group, 80; Sir Russell *Hillhouse,* civil *servant, 57; Mr* R.E. Holland, former chairman, Pearl Group, 68; Mr James Kirkup, travel writer, novelist and playwright, 72; Dr R.M. Laws, Master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 69; Mr Rowley Leigh, restaurateur, 45; Sir Thomas Padmore, civil servant, 86; Mr Mike Smith, broadcaster, 40; Professor George Steiner, author, *66; Mr Walter Sweeney, MP, 46;* Sir Herbert Tetley, actuary, 87; Sir Eric *Yarrow,* former chairman, Clydesdale Bank, 75.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Henry Fielding, novelist, Sharpham Park, Somerset, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1724; Mme *de Stael, novelist, Paris, 1766;* Phil May, cartoonist, Wortley, York*shire, 1864;* Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, Russian revolutionary, Ulyanovsk, 1870; Alexander Kerensky, Prime Minister of Russia, 1917, Simbirsk, 1881; Sergei Prokofiev, composer, Sontsovka, Ukraine, 1891; Vladimir Nabokov, novelist, St Petersburg, 1899; Robert Oppenheimer, physicist and pioneer of the atom bomb, New York, 1904; Kathleen Ferrier, contralto, Higher Walton, *Lancashire, 1912.*

DEATHS: John Tradescant, traveller and gardener, London, 1662; James Hargreaves, inventor of the *spinning jenny, Nottingham, 1778;* John Crome, landscape painter, Norwich, 1821; Thomas Rowlandson, caricaturist, London, 1827; Richard Trevithick, pioneer of the locomotive engine, Dartford, 1833; Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister 1905-08, London, 1908; Roy Campbell, poet, Setubal, Portugal, 1957.

Sirius, a British packet steamer, was the first steam ship to cross the Atlantic to New York from England, 1838.

British lone yachtsman Robin *Knox-Johnston completed his solo* non-stop circumnavigation of the *world in just 312 days, 1969.*

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: William Shakespeare, playwright and poet, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1564, (he died on this day at Stratford, 1616); George, Prince of Denmark, consort of Queen Anne, 1653; Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, London, 1775; James Buchanan, 15th American President 1857-61, Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, 1791; Marie Taglioni, ballerina, Stockholm, *1809; Louis Antoine Jullien,* composer, Sisteron, Basses-Alpes, *1812; James Anthony Froude, his*torian, Dartington, Devon, 1818; Max Planck, physicist, Kiel, 1858; Edmund Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby of Megiddo, field marshal, Brackenhurst, Nottinghamshire, 1861; Lester Pearson, Prime Minister of Canada 1963-68, Nobel Peace laureate 1957, Toronto, 1897; Roy Orbison, singer, Vernon, Texas, 1936.

DEATHS: Miguel de Cervantes, novelist, Madrid, 1616; Henry *Vaughan, poet, Llansaintffraed,* Dyfed, 1695; Andrew Baxter, *philosopher,* Whittingham, Edinburgh, 1750; Joseph Nollekins, sculptor, London, 1823; William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate 1843-50, Rydal Mount, Cumbria, 1850; Rupert Brooke, poet, died on active service, Skyros, 1915; Jim Laker, cricketer, 1986; Otto Preminger, film director, New York, 1986; *Michael Ramsey, Baron Ramsey* of Canterbury, Archbishop of Canterbury 1961-74, Oxford, 1988.

Marriages

Mr C.N. Billingham
and Dr H.R. Brooks
*The marriage took place on Fri*day, March 24, at The Church of All Saints, Nettleham, Lincolnshire, of Mr Charles Nicholas Billingham to Dr Helen Ruth Brooks. The Rev M.J. Silley, Rural *Dean of Lawres,* officiated.

M J. Delos
and Mme E. Bouchon
The marriage took place quietly in *France, on* Friday, April 14, 1995, between Jean Delos and Penelope *Bouchon.*

Mr W.F.E. Forbes
***and Venetia* The Hon Lady**
Troubridge
The marriage took place on Tuesday, April 18, 1995, in London, between Mr Derick Forbes and Venetia the Hon Lady Troubridge.

Mr R.H. Laing
and Miss S.J. Prosser
The marriage took place on March 25, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, between Richard Laing, of Eyton, Herefordshire, and Samantha Prosser, of Orleton, Herefordshire.

Commodore I.R. Pemberton,
RD RNR,
and Miss J. Pears-Nolan,
ARRC RD
The marriage took place in Bristol, on Friday, April 21, between Commodore Ian Pemberton and Miss Jane Pears-Nolan.

Mr M.L. Rea
and Miss E.L.G. Wheeler
The marriage took place at Winchester, on Wednesday, April 19, 1995, of Mathew Lawrence Rea, son of *Mr Christopher Rea and* Mrs Louise Hill, to Emma Louise Gidley Wheeler, daughter of Mr Charles Gidley-Wheeler and Mrs Felicity Wheeler.

Luncheon

Glasgow Press Charities
Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, and Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, Chairman of United Distillers, were the speakers at a *luncheon held* yesterday at the Marriott Hotel, Glasgow. Mr Jim Cassidy, Editor of the *Sunday Mail*, was the host. Mr Alexander Cameron, Honorary Vice President of the Newspaper Press Fund, also spoke. During the lun*cheon Lord Macfarlane presented the* Glasgow Press Charities with a cheque for £40,000. . Among those present were:

Lord McCluskey (honorary vice president, Newspaper Press Fund) and Lady McCluskey with Mr Ricky Marsh, (chairman), Mr Ian Skelly (honorary vice president) and Mr Fred Johnstone (appeals chairman); Lady Macfarlane of Bearsden, Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, Mr George McKechnie *(editor, The Herald)* and Mrs McKechnie, Mr Mark Bolland (director, Press Complaints Commission), *Mr David McLetchie (president,* Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association) and Mr Liam Kane (chief executive, Caledonian Publishing).

ROBIN MAYES

Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, was named Chess Journalist of 1994 yesterday at the Festival of the Mind held at the Albert Hall. Mr Keene, left, was presented with an engraved statuette by *Demetri Djelica*, director of the International Chess Writers Association who sponsored the award

Dinners

Royal College of Radiologists
Sir Christopher Paine, President of *the* Royal College of Radiologists, presided at a dinner given by the *wardens* last night at the college to mark the retirement of Mrs Irene Stephenson.

Montgomeryshire Society
Lord Hooson was a speaker at the annual dinner of *the Montgomery*shire Society held last night at the *House of Lords.* Mr Peter Garbett Edwards, president, was in the chair. Mr Peter English, High Sheriff of Powys, Mr John Elfed Jones and Mr R.E. Meuric Rees, Lord Lieutenant of *Gwynedd, also spoke.*

Pegasus Club
Lord Oaksey *presided* at the centenary dinner of the Pegasus Club held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. The Lord Chief Justice and Viscount Norwich also spoke.

Old Ipswichian Club
Mr I.G. Galbraith, Headmaster of Ipswich School, was the principal guest at the London dinner of the Old Ipswichian Club held last night at the East *India* Devonshire Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr M.R. Fenn, president of the club, presided.

Service dinner

East Surrey Regiment
Brigadier M.J.A. Clarke presided at a *dinner for officers who served in the* East Surrey Regiment held last night at Simpson's-in-the-Strand.

School news

Dean Close School
The Trinity Term begins today. Simon Kenworthy is Captain of Cricket. *Open Day will be on May* 20. Prize Giving and the Opening of the new Art and Design Building will be on May 27 at which the Guest of Honour will be Lady Catherwood and the Service of Commemoration of Benefactors will be on May 28 at which the Preacher will be Sir Frederick Catherwood. The *Leavers' Service* and Reception will be on June 23 and term ends on July 7.

Sedbergh School
Summer Term began on Friday, April 21. Mr Christopher Hirst took up the appointment of Headmaster. Prizegiving is on Saturday, *May 27. Old Sedberghian* Weekend is on June 10 and 11.

St John's School, Leatherhead
Summer Term began on Thursday, April 20, at St John's School, Leatherhead. Mark Siddall is Cap*tain of the School and Tim* Goodyer is Captain of Cricket. The *Junior School play, The Elephant Man* will be performed on May 24, 25 and 26, and Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy* will be performed on July 6 and 7. A performance of Handel's *Messiah* will be given on Sunday, July 2 at 7.30; this concert marks the retirement of Geoffrey *Harvey, Director of Music,* after 28 years service to St John's. Old *Johnian Sunday is July 2 when the* preacher will be the Rev Martin Henwood. There will follow a Gaudy for all Old Johnians who left the School between 1970 and 1979. Prizegiving is on July 8 when the Guest of Honour will be Sir Denis Marshall.

Memorial meeting

Dr Humphry Greenwood
A celebration of the life of Dr Peter Humphry Greenwood, ichthyologist and a former President of the Linnean Society, was held yesterday *at the Linnean Society of London,* Burlington House. Dr Rosemary Lowe-McConnell introduced the programme. Professor Brian Gardiner, President of the Linnean Society, Dr *Colin Patterson of the Natural Hist*ory Museum, Dr Felix Mann, Professor Philip Corbet and Dr Gordon McG. Reid were the speakers. Professor Kees Barel, of the Institute of Evolutionary and Ecological Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands, and Profes*sor Kryvi, of the Zoological Institute,* Bergen, Norway, attended. Members of the family and many friends, colleagues and former students were present.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F.W.M. Burkitt
and Miss J.S. Lloyd-Evans
The engagement is announced between Francis, elder son of Mr and Mrs Miles Burkitt, of Grantchester, Cambridgeshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Lloyd-Evans, of Ropley, Hampshire.

M C.E.D. Chalvet Bauny *de Recy*
and Miss E.J. Steele
The engagement is announced between Christophe, second son of M and Mme Etienne *Chalvet* Bauny de Recy, of Servigny, Normandy, and Elizabeth, only daughter of Major General and Mrs Michael Steele, of *Redhill*, Surrey.

Mr A.F. Cox
and Miss S.E.L. MacIntyre
The engagement is announced between Anthony, elder son of Mr S. Cox, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Mrs L. Cox, of Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, and Sally, daughter of Mr J. MacIntyre and Mrs J. Bardwell, both of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr J.G.K. de Gomendio
and Miss C.L. Scovell
The engagement is announced between Jorge Gomendio Kindelan, youngest son of Srs de Gomendio, of La Moraleja, Madrid, Spain, and Clare Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.A.J. Scovell, of Beverley, East Yorkshire.

Mr A.E. Eisemann
and Miss J.K. Dickens
The engagement is announced between Alexander Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Alexander Eisemann, of Connecticut, USA, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Dickens, of London.

Mr A.C. Fairbank, FRCS,
and Miss N.M. Hayles
The engagement is announced between Adrian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Fairbank Butcher, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Nicola, eldest daughter of Stanley and Marie Hayles, of Curramulka, South Australia.

Mr D. Harvey
and Miss L. Pease
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Graham Harvey, of Forres Moray, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr Patrick Pease, of Pilton, Somerset, and Mrs Simon Appleby, of Little Hampden, Buckinghamshire.

Herr F.P. Lademacher
and Miss C.A. Knox
The engagement is announced between Filip Peter, elder son of *Herr Professor Dr* Horst and Frau Lademacher, of Münster, *Germany, and* Christine Anne, daughter of Dr and Mrs George Knox, of Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire.

Mr B.E.N. Lyster-Binns
and Miss B.N. Hunter Blair
The engagement is announced between Ben, son of Mr and Mrs Noel Lyster-Binns, of Liss, Hampshire, and Belinda, daughter of Mr Graham Hunter Blair, of Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, and Mrs Julie Hunter Blair, of Westonbirt, Gloucestershire.

Mr K.M. Pascoe
and Miss S.L. Holmes
The engagement is announced between Keith, younger son of Mr and Mrs S.G. Pascoe, of Rayleigh, Essex, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.D.V. Holmes, of Caversham, Berkshire.

Mr D.A. Porter
and Miss A.C. Jowett
The engagement is announced between David Alexander, younger son of Air Vice-Marshal John Porter, OBE, of Cowbridge, Wales, and of Mrs Sandy Porter, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Alexandra Caitlin, only daughter of *Mr and Mrs* Phillip Jowett, of Wisborough Green, West Sussex.

Mr D.C. Ruthven-Stuart
and Miss C.J. Bennett
The engagement is announced between David, second son of Dr and Mrs Ian Ruthven-Stuart, of Hambledon, Hampshire, and Clare, daughter of the late Mr David Bennett and of Mrs Jacqueta Bennett, of Barton, Cambridge.

Mr M.J. Spiers
and Miss J.E. Allen
The engagement is announced between Michael James, son of Mr and Mrs K.J. Spiers, of Loughborough, and Jessie Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr Kent Allen, of Maine, USA and Mrs Elizabeth Allen, of Wimbledon.

Mr M.J. Swindells
and Miss V.S. Rae
The engagement is announced between Matthew, only son of Mr and Mrs Derek Swindells, of Hove, Sussex, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Rae, of Teignmouth, Devon.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday after Easter

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch, Darke in A minor, Lord for thy Tender mercies *sake (Hilton), The Provost: 6.30* Choral E, Sumsion in G, My beloved spake (Hadley). The Provost.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: *11 Choral* Euch; 4 Choral E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 M: 10.30 Euch w Hymns, Canon M Taylor: 4 Choral E, I was glad (Parry). The Provost.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Mass in C (Mozart), Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), Canon A Redfern: *3.30 Choral E, Cantate Domino* (Pitoni), Responses (Walsh), Wood in D, Good Christian Men (Thiman), The Dean.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Our Lady Undercroft: 9.30 M, Nave: 11 S Euch, Mass of the quiet hour/ Prayer to Jesus (Oldroyd), Rev P Brett: 3.15 E, Responses (Clucas), Kelly in C, Christ is risen (Houbert): 5 Scouts' Service, St George's Tide: Rev A McNicol.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Canon D Jenkins: 3 E

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC: 9.30 Euch, 11.15 Euch, Rev J Jones: 3 St George's Day Service: 6 E, Canticles: Chants, Vice Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Choral M, Responses (Bradbury), Te Deum in G (Britten), Canon O Conway: *11.30 Choral* Euch, O quam gloriosum (Vittoria): 2.15 Scouts St George's Day Service: 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Bradbury), Stanford in A, I was glad (Parry): 6.30 Three Gardens Meditation Message.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: *8* HC: 10 M, Stanford in B flat, Responses (Ayleward), Exsultate justi (Viadana), The Precentor: 11 S Euch, Stanford in C, *Jesu dulcis memoria* (Victoria), Rev Canon J Haselock, 2 Scouts' Service: 3.30 E, Stanford in C, Glorious & *powerful God (Stanford), Responses (Smith).*

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C: 10.30 Euch, Messe Solonelle (Langlais), I sat down under *his shadow (Bairstow). O sacrum* convivium (Messiaen), Rev T Darby, 3 Scouts St George's Day Service: 3 German Lutherans: *3 Polish Lutherans, 5.30 E, Rise up my love* (Willan), Responses (Rose), St Paul's Service (Howells), Lord thou has been our refuge *(Vaughan Williams).*

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Mass in 3 parts (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Victoria). *Canon M Perry: 10 M, Responses/ Te Deum in* A flat (Harris), I got me flowers (Vaughan Williams), Canon D Brown: 2 Scouts' St *George's Day Service.* 3.30 E, Responses (Tallis), Magnificat septimi toni/Nunc *dimittis (Victoria), Christ rising again from* the dead (Sheppard).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sancta Johannis (Haydn), Since by man came death (Handel), Vice Dean: 2 Scouts Service: 3.45 E, Preces (Ayleward), *Murrill in E, Rise heart thy Lord is risen* (Vaughan Williams).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Sumsion in F, Now the green blade riseth (French Carol), The Treasurer: 11.15 M, Responses (Ferial), *Stanford in B flat, The strife is o'er (Ley), The* Precentor: 3 E, Responses (Clucas), Walmisley in D, O sing unto the Lord (Tomkins): 6.30 E, *Most glorious Lord of life (Harris), The Dean.*

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MP: 10.30 S Euch, Coll Reg (Howells), O sing joyfully (Batten), The Canon Treasurer: *2.30 Scouts' St* George's Day Service: 4 Choral E, Stanford in A, Blessed be the God & Father (Wesley), Responses (Rose), Final Responses (Naylor), Canon Precentor.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E, The Beatitudes (Parry), Ave verum corpus (Philips), Preb G Wynne: 3.30 E, Responses (Jackson).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8, 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Mass in 4 parts (Byrd), If ye love me (Tallis), The Precentor: 11.15 M, Britten in C, Responses (Smith), This the record of John (Gibbons): 2 St George's Day Service, Rev P Mullins: 3.45 E, Coll Reg (Howells), *Responses (Leighton), I was glad (Parry).*

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Stanford in Bb (Festal), The Dean: 3 Boys' Brigade Service: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8, 12.15 Euch: Rev N Court: 11 S Euch, Kyrie (Ireland), Stanford in C & F, Thou hallowed chosen morn (Armstrong Gibbs), The Canon: 3.30 Choral E, Stanford in B flat, Surgens Jesus Dominus noster (Philips): 6.30 E, The Dean.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP: 9 HC: 10.30 S Euch, The Archdeacon: 6.30 E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 MP: 9.30 Parish C, Mrs J Zunde: 11 M, Canon T Page: 3 St George's Day Parade & Service: 6.30 E, Canon G Tolley.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch, *Ireland in C, O thou the central orb (Wood),* Lord for thy tender mercies sake (Hilton), Rev Canon R White: 3 E, Dyson in D, Greater love *(Ireland), The Provost.*

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M, The Dean: 10 S Euch, This joyful Eastertide/ King Jesus hath a garden (arr Wood), Mass (David Cheetham), The Librarian: 6 E, Responses (Smith), Short Service (Gibbons), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Redford), Canon N Pocock.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Missa *Brevis (Palestrina), Rev D Goodman:* 11.30 M, Ireland in C, O sing joyfully (Batten), Rt Rev R Lewis: 3 E, Sumsion in G, Let the *people praise thee (Mathias), Rev G Farran.*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10, Responses (Holmes), Te Deum in G (Sumsion), Christus resurgens *(Philips)*, Canon C Semper: *11.15* Abbey Euch Liverpool Service (Rawsthorne), Christus factus est (Bruckner), O Sacrum convivium (Tallis), *Rev P Ferguson; 3 E,* Westminster Service (Howells), The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), Rev D Washington: 6.30 *ES, Sr H Markey.*

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M: 10.30 SM, Missa Pontificalis (Perosi), Haec dies (Handl), O sacrum convivium (Victoria): 10 MP: 3.30 V&B, Magnificat octavi toni (Suriano), Lauda Jerusalem (Willaert).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Coll Reg (Howells), Haec dies (Byrd), Rev C Milford: 11.30 S Euch, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria): 2 St George's Day Scouts' & Guides Service: 3.30 E, Oculi omnium (Wood), And when the builders (Shepherd), Canon Morgan.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch, Stanford in C, This joyful Eastertide (Wood), Rev Canon J Toy: 11.30 M, Noble in B minor, Responses (Smith): 2 Scouts St George's Day Service: 4 E, Jesus College Service (Mathias), Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), Rev Canon R Fletcher.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Choral M, Responses (Neary), The Easter *Anthems (Hylton Stewart),* Prince Albert in A, West in G, Most glorious Lord of Lyfe (Armstrong Gibbs), Rev R Griffiths: 3.30 Choral E, Aston in F, Responses (Neary), When Mary through the garden went (Stanford).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, *10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Fr A Barratt.*

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 MS & HC, Rev Dr J Newell: 10, Gloria in Excelsis, Mass in C (Mozart), Rev Dr W Alston: 11.30 MS, Rise heart, Thy Lord is Risen (Vaughan Williams), Rev Dr W Alston: 8 ES, Rev S Mitchell.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: 11 M, Responses (Morley), Britten in E, When thou O Lord hadst arisen (Rachmaninov), Rev J Halliburton: 3.15 E, Watson in E, Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford), Rev Canon E Barnes.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM: 10.20 MP: 11 HM, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Easter (Vaughan Williams), Rev P Johnstone: 6 E&B, Sumsion in A, My beloved spake (Purcell), Rev P McGeary.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C: 11, Rev S Wookey: 6.30, Rev R Tice.

THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston St, W1: 11 SM, Communion Service in C (Ireland), Haec *Dies (Palestrina).*

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa quarti toni (Vittoria), This joyful *Eastertide (Wood), Jesus junxit se (Palestrina).*

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC: 10 Children: 11 M, Rev P Elvy: 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Mr T Fletcher.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM: 11 SM, Missa On me Paidit (Lassus), Cantate Domino (Doppel), Laudate *Dominum (Mozart), Fr M Beattie.*

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC, T Peek: 11 Informal, *Michael Cassidy: 5, 7 Informal with* Communion, Rev N Gumbel.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Surrexit pastor bonis (Victoria), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Haec dies (Byrd).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 *MP*, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev Dr J Fuliga: *7 Jazz Vespers,* Rev J Baldvinsson.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC: 11 M, Short Service/ Haec dies (Byrd), Rev A Winter: 6.30 E, Short Service (Byrd), Surrexit Pastor (Lassus), Rev I Thurston.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Second Service/ If ye be risen again with Christ (Gibbons), Stanford in C, Canon J Oates: 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Rose), Arnold in A, Blessed be the God & Father (SS Wesley), Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 M, Stanford in C, On Thee each living soul awaits/ Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn), Rev T Goode.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, Rev C MacLeod: 6.30 Rev J McIndoe.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa brevis (Britten), Haec dies (Mawby), Christ lag in Todesbanden (Bach).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Stanford in A, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Rev B Wilson; 6 E.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 *MP &* HC, Dum transisset Sabbatum (Taverner), Rev D Watson: 6.30 E, Dum transisset Sabbatum (Taverner), Rev D Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: 11 S Euch, Merbecke Congregational Setting, Rev T Devonshire *Jones.*

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Spatzen Messe, K220 (Mozart), Dum *transisset Sabbatum (Taverner),* Rev R Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, *St Martin's Service (Stringer), Rev* Canon L Houlden: 11.30 Visitors, Rev B Schunemann: 2.45 Chinese, Rev H Che: 5 *Choral E, Responses (Ayleward), Gloucester* Service (Howells), Evening Hymn (Balfour Gardiner): 6.30 ES, Mrs F Hiller.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington, W8: 9.30 Euch, Rev F Gelli: 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli: 6.30 E, Rev G Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa sexti toni (Croce), Fr B Scott: 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 Parish Euch, Rev S Webster: 6 Searching for Wholeness.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC: 11 S Euch, Mass (Merbecke), Rev F Wells.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11 S Euch: Double organ mass (Vierne), Rev H Ruschmeyer.

ST STEPHEN'S, *Gloucester Road, SW7: 8,* 8 LM: 11 SM, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Resurrexit sicut dixit (Sweelinck), *Exsultate Deo (Scarlatti), Fr N Cocking.*

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M, *Responses (Reading),* Te Deum (Chant), Howells (St Peter ad Vincula), Dum transisset Sabbatum (Taverner), Canon M Saward.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 *HC*: 11.15 MP, Easter (Armstong Gibbs), Canon C Hill.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M, Wood in E, The Lord is King (Boyce): 3.30 E, Thou O God art praised in Sion, Sumsion in G (Macpherson), Gloria (3 part mass) (Byrd).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev S Hebbs.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, *SW1: 11 M, A brighter dawn is breaking,* Ye choirs of new Jerusalem (Stanford), Rev K Joyce: 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Holy Holy Holy (Schubert), How goodly are the tents (Ouseley), Rev C French.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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So put to death those parts of *you which belong to the earth - fornication, indecency, lust, evil desires, and the ruthless greed which is* nothing less than idolatry.
Colossians 3 : 5 (REB)

BIRTHS

COX - On April 20th, to Emma (née Briggs) and David Cox, a son, Thomas Joseph, a brother for Hannah.

COX - On April 12th, to Tessa (née Taylor) and Christopher, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra.

FELTON - On April 11th at Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Elaine and Murray, a son, Harry James.

KERR - On February 5th, to Caroline (née Klee) and Robert, a daughter, Emily Charlotte Lucy, a sister for George Hector.

PRINGLE - On April 16th, to Virginia and Nigel, a daughter, Zoe Elizabeth Melody, a sister for Ben.

SIMPSON - On 14th April, to Sophie (née Caruth) and Christopher, a son, Fergus Alexander, a brother for our three year old Jack.

THOMSON-FIELD - On April 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Tracey and Tony, a beautiful son, Christopher Adam.

TSUJI - On 20th April at Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, to Yoko and Haruhito, a lovely first baby girl, Yuko.

WATSON - On 12th April, at the Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, to Graham and Sarah (née Davies), a son, *Frederick Benedict Michael,* a brother for Helen.

WHELPTON - On April 8th, to Sophie (née Lane) and Charlie, a son, Edward.

DEATHS

BOWEN - Elizabeth Mary, widow of Lt. Col. F.H. Bowen, late XXth Lancashire Fusiliers. Peacefully at home on 18th April. Service on 28th April at Prinknash Abbey at 12.45pm. Enquiries (01225) 314304.

ENDFIELD - Cyril (Cy), peacefully after a long illness on 16th April 1995. Much loved husband of Mo and father of Suzannah and Eden. We will always miss *you darling. Memorial* Service to be arranged. Enquiries to S. Endfield, Northgate House, Burnham Market, Norfolk PE31 8HG.

FARNELL - Diane Elaine, aged 96. *The funeral will* take place at 12 noon on Monday April 24th at Canford Crematorium, Bristol. Wife of the late Robin G.W. Farnell, both formerly of Idleigh Court, Meopham, Kent and latterly of Sandford House, Aylburton, Glos. She was author, war-time A.T.A. pilot and farmer. Mother of *David* and Martin Boswell and Michael Farnell, grandmother of ten and great-grandmother of twenty.

LEVY - On April 19th, peacefully after an illness borne with great courage, Lawrence Nicholas aged 47 years, much loved son of Ninof and the late Joseph Levy, brother of Peter and Jane, brother-in-law of Colette and John and uncle of Claudia, Melanie, Jonathan, Jamie, Mark and Katie. Cremation on Sunday April 23rd at 11.30 am at Golders Green Crematorium (West Chapel), Hoop Lane, London NW11. Flowers to crematorium or donations, if desired, to Cystic Fibrosis Holiday Fund c/o Cystic Fibrosis Trust, Pegasus House, 37-43 Sackville Street, London W1X 2DL.

MARCH - Ralph Christopher March of Muncraig, Borgue, Kirkcudbright, formerly of Whittington, Worcester, *husband* of Ernestine, died in Kirkcudbright on 19th April 1995 in his 84th year. Enquiries to D.M. Alexander of March and Edwards, 8 Sansome Walk, Worcester WR1 1LW. Tel: (01905) 723861.

MILLS - On April 20th, unexpectedly at home, Harold Markham, much loved husband of Ann, father of Julian, Antonia, Charlotte, Lavinia and Venetia and a proud grandfather. Private family funeral.

MILNE - On Thursday April 20th 1995, at a nursing home in Royston, Joyce. Dearly loved wife of the late Iain, mother of Robert and Jeanette and sadly missed by her grandchildren, family and friends. Funeral Service on Wednesday May 3rd at 2.30 pm at St Thomas of Canterbury and the English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, Royston, followed by burial. Family flowers only please but donations *gratefully accepted for Royal* British Legion Poppy Fund c/o S. Newling & Son, Funeral Directors, 122 *Mill* Road, Royston, Herts.

MORGAN - Dorothy, aged 89, of Lechlade, Gloucestershire, much loved mother of Esme and *Pauline*, after a long illness borne with grace and courage. Funeral private. No flowers. If liked, donations for Fairford Cottage Hospital, c/o E. Taylor & Son, 19A Corbett Road, Carterton, Oxon. OX18 3LG.

RODWELL - On 19th April 1995, peacefully in hospital after a long illness borne with unfailing courage, Sarah Marion (Sally), aged 45 years. Beloved wife of Simon and dearly loved mother of Guy and Claire. Funeral Service at Whittlesford Parish Church on Wednesday 26th April at noon. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to The Macmillan Cancer Care Appeal, c/o Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge CB1 3DF.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MERTON - *Esther.* A Memorial Service will be held at St Mary's Church, *Mortimer*, Berkshire on Saturday 1st July 1995 at 2pm.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

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OBITUARIES

R. E. S. WYATT

R. E. S. Wyatt, former England cricket captain, died in Cornwall on April 20 aged 93. He was born on May 2, 1901.

FIRST photographed holding a cricket bat at the age of three, for the rest of his life Bob Wyatt either played or followed very closely the game he loved. He became, in 1988, England's oldest Test cricketer — a mantle which now passes to the Derbyshire leg spinner, T. B. Mitchell, who is 92 — and had long been a renowned source of cricketing wisdom. Only 17 batsmen have ever exceeded his aggregate of 39,405 first-class runs.

In 1932-33 he was vice-captain to Douglas Jardine on the notorious "bodyline" tour of Australia, though he always maintained that the West Indian bowling attacks of recent times were just as menacing. He felt that helmets and bouncer restrictions would never have become necessary had the MCC adopted a proposal he made, shortly after the bodyline tour, of a line halfway down the pitch beyond which bowlers would have to pitch the ball.

Robert Elliott Storey Wyatt was born in Milford, Surrey, the son of a prep-school master, himself a good club cricketer. He was educated at King Henry VIII School, Coventry, his family having by then moved to the Midlands. His county career began with Warwickshire in 1923 and ended with Worcestershire in 1951. A useful bowler of off breaks mixed with gentle outswing, he was, in his early days, a genuine all-rounder, who came into the selectors' reckoning in 1926, when he bowled 1,092 overs and took 92 wickets to go with the 1,485 runs he made that season. That winter he went to India with A. E. R. Gilligan's side, the first of his seven MCC tours.

Although an amateur, Wyatt was seldom unavailable to play cricket. At different times he worked in insurance, in engineering and on the administrative staff at Edgbaston. As Sir Pelham Warner wrote of him, "a keener cricketer never lived".

Despite narrowly missing selection for Australia in 1928-29, Wyatt was D. R. Jardine's vice-captain when MCC went there next in 1932-33 — and was back there again with G. O. Allen's side in 1936-37, when a broken arm kept him out of the first three Test matches. His astute observation, copious memory, close involvement and determined objectivity made him as reliable an authority as there was on the ever-thorny subject of bodyline bowling.

But Wyatt was never thrown more dramatically into the public eye than when he was selected to replace A. P. F. Chapman as England's captain for the last Test against Australia at the Oval in 1930. It was a vital match, the series being level at one-all, and Wyatt was a controversial choice. Although he had been to South Africa in 1927-28, when he made the first of his two Test hundreds, and to the West Indies in 1929-30, and was by now the Warwickshire captain, he lacked the dynamism that had made Chapman one of England's most popular cricketers. Australia, too, had Don Bradman, who had already made 254 in the second Test and 334 in the third. On the perfect Oval pitch Bradman made 232, and nothing Wyatt could do (although he scored 64 in England's first innings) could prevent Australia from winning by an innings and so regaining the Ashes.

Of Wyatt's 40 Test matches — the first at Johannesburg in 1927 and the last at Melbourne in 1937 — 12 were against Australia and 17 against South Africa. He captained England 15 times, against Australia next in 1934, when he had four Tests in charge and again had Bradman to contend with. He also took the MCC side to the Caribbean in 1934-35 for a Test series which brought West Indies their first major breakthrough and ended with Wyatt nursing a jaw badly broken by Martindale, one of the early West Indian fast bowlers. Fears that this might have a lasting effect on his confidence were soon allayed; the English season of 1935 brought him more than 2,000 runs and an innings of 149 in the First Test against South Africa. Although somewhat prone to injury, he had a reputation, nonetheless, for never flinching.

Between 1928 and 1938 there was only one season when Wyatt was not at the top of the Warwickshire batting averages. He captained the county from 1930 to 1937, taking them to fourth position in 1934, their best in the championship since 1911. When, in 1937, that county's small and venerable executive committee found him less flexible, on and off the field, than they would have liked, he was relieved of the captaincy among much local controversy. After the war he chose to finish his career with Worcestershire, whom he captained for three seasons.

During the last of these, by which time he was 50, Worcestershire found themselves needing six runs off the last ball of a championship match to beat Somerset. Wyatt duly obliged by driving H. T. F. Buse into the Taunton pavilion. Occasional appearances for MCC and the Free Foresters against the Universities continued until, by the time he played his last match, against Oxford in the Parks, he was 56. He finished with a career batting average of 40.05, made 85 centuries, took 901 wickets at 32.85 apiece and held 417 catches. For England he scored 1,839 runs (average 31.70) and took 18 wickets (average 35.66).

Discriminating yet unassuming, Wyatt reflected these characteristics in his batting style. By instinct a technician, he talked as eagerly and rationally about the theory of the game when he was 90 as he had as a player. His particular concern was the lbw law and the change made to it in 1935, which ruled that even when playing a stroke a batsman could be out to a ball pitching outside the off stump. This, in Wyatt's view, was a serious misjudgment. He believed it shifted the emphasis of the game from the glories of the off-side to the greater constraints of the leg-side by encouraging inswing and off spin bowling. Then, and for the rest of his life, Wyatt favoured, instead, a wider wicket.

He was an England selector, 1949-53, and chairman in 1950. In 1990 he became one of MCC's few honorary life vice-presidents. He retired to Cornwall, where surrounded by his wife's countless dogs, he indulged his interest in boats and from where he made regular expeditions to Lord's. In recent years and on the big occasions, he was invariably to be seen in J. Paul Getty's box at Lord's, attended by listeners eager to draw upon his encyclopaedic knowledge.

His wife, Mollie, and their only son survive him.

DENNIS HOBDEN

Dennis Hobden, Labour MP for Brighton, Kemptown, 1964-70, died on April 20 aged 75. He was born January 21, 1920.

DENNIS HOBDEN was a post office catering manager who made a particular impact on the political scene in 1964 by becoming the first Labour Party candidate ever to win a Sussex seat in the House of Commons.

His victory was said to have set the china teacups of the Tories rattling in the elegant Regency terraces of the Kemptown constituency, and not simply because he was a Labour Party candidate. More than that, he was a fervent left-winger who had resigned from the Labour Party in 1950 over the issue of the rearmament of Germany and spent a year as a member of the Communist Party before returning to the Labour fold.

Then in 1956 he had defended the Soviet Union's suppression of the Hungarian uprising, a stance that started a big row in the local Labour Party and resulted in Transport House refusing to put him on its panel of potential parliamentary candidates.

Eight years later, however, his zealous constituency work won favour locally and at the Labour Party headquarters, and enabled him to win Kemptown by just seven votes — a result was that declared only after seven careful recounts.

Dennis Harry Hobden was the son of Charles and Agnes Hobden. Educated at elementary school, he began working for the General Post Office in 1934 and quickly became secretary of the local branch of the Union of Postal Workers. During the Second World War he served in bombers with the rank of flight lieutenant.

After the war he returned to the Post Office and joined the Labour Party, later serving as secretary and chairman of the Kemptown constituency party and of the Brighton borough party.

In Parliament he was one of Harold Wilson's sternest critics over the Government's policy towards the Vietnam War, arguing that Britain should have condemned American actions there unreservedly and backed the Vietnamese people's struggle for freedom. He stressed that he was not anti-American but believed that the US had sunk to its lowest ebb of morality by its aggressive actions in South-East Asia.

At the 1966 election the closeness of the two parties in the Kemptown constituency meant that news of an old age pensioner going into hospital could bring alarm and despondency to either camp, and talk by a voter of a change of allegiance could result in a panic visit by one or other of the candidates.

Once again the diligence of Hobden and his party activists paid off. With an 80 per cent turnout he increased his majority over the Conservative candidate who was standing in Kemptown for the first time, from seven to 831.

Hobden's left-wing views were untempered and a year later he provoked a political storm by calling for a Popular Front between the Labour Party and the Communist Party. He was speaking at a dinner to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the October revolution in Russia. Capitalism had outlived its usefulness, he said and the Left, as he had seen it in Parliament, was a bogus Left.

The Parliamentary Labour Party decided to ignore such intemperate utterances and by 1968, Hobden's political career was beset by personal problems.

Although his elevation from post office catering manager to MP had boosted his earnings from £20 a week to £62, he had left his wife and four children in 1966 and was having difficulty in maintaining three homes — one for his family and another for himself in Brighton and a third near Westminster. Such were his financial difficulties that he publicly considered quitting Parliament.

However, he weathered that particular financial storm and remained in the House of Commons. But at the 1970 election, when Edward Heath led the Conservative Party to unexpected victory over Labour, his 831 majority was turned into a Conservative majority of 3,103.

Of the 70 Labour MPs who lost their seats in that election, Hobden suffered probably the greatest hardship. He was reduced initially to living on social security benefits, having signed on at the local labour exchange. By the end of the year, however, he had returned to the Post Office, where he worked selling stamps from behind the counter.

Hobden took this change of circumstances in his stride. He remained active in politics, serving on Brighton Borough Council and on the Post Office Workers Union's parliamentary panel. His attempts to regain his parliamentary seat in the general elections of February and October 1974 were unsuccessful, the Conservative candidate retaining the seat with majorities of 4,020 and 2,665.

But Hobden continued to sit on Brighton Borough Council and such was the respect with which he was regarded that he served as Mayor in 1979 despite the fact that the Conservatives were the dominant party. When the Labour Party gained control in 1986 he chaired several council committees.

Hobden maintained an odd assortment of views and interests. In addition to being an active and prominent Freemason, he was also a Spiritualist. In later years his left-wing political views mellowed and he was philosophical about the demise of communist rule in Eastern Europe.

He remained a well-known and popular personality in Brighton and retained to the end his sense of mischief which had enlivened his political career.

Dennis Hobden is survived by his second wife, Sheila, and the two sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

EDWARD HENDERSON

Edward Firth Henderson, CMG, Arabist and Ambassador to Qatar, 1971-74, died on April 13 aged 77. He was born on December 12, 1917.

IN TURN soldier, businessman, diplomat and scholar, Edward Henderson was remarkable less for the distinction he achieved in any of these vocations than for the ease with which he wove them together. The thread that bound up all his activities was the Arab world; and in particular the Gulf. It was his knowledge of the Gulf, indeed, which informed almost all of his adult life.

During the 1950s he played an influential role in enabling the Sultan of Muscat to establish a united state of Muscat and Oman, thus gaining control of oil reserves with which to propel the development of the state's primitive economy and to help to increase the security of the Arabian Peninsula. Later he played a conspicuous part in the capture *and pacification of Buraimi, a large oasis in the north of Oman, set among rich oilfields* which acted as a trading centre. An armed band of Saudi tribesmen supported by an American oil company eager for new concessions had taken control of Buraimi in breach of a standstill agreement between the British Government, acting on behalf of the Sultan of Muscat, and the Ruler of Abu Dhabi. A British expedition of Trucial Oman Levies, with Henderson present as a political officer instructed to prevent bloodshed, captured Buraimi and removed the Saudis and their supporters.

Edward Firth Henderson was educated at Clifton College and at Brasenose College, Oxford. His was the generation which, above any other, was marked by the Second World War. He served in the Army throughout it, sometimes in unconventional capacities, and was mentioned in dispatches. Afterwards he served in the British-officered Arab Legion, before moving, in 1948, into the oil business.

He pursued his business career in the Gulf for eight years before turning — in that climacteric year for Britain in the Arab world, 1956 — to the Foreign Service.

Henderson then spent 18 *years in the Foreign Service, alternating between the Foreign Office and a variety of* Arab posts. In London he never carried complete conviction. There was a sleepy gentleness about him that sat ill with the speedy and impersonal processing of issues and papers. When he was abroad it was another matter entirely. There Henderson could use to good effect his gentle charm and his interest in, and confidence with, people. Above all, he went on developing and putting to use, in increasingly senior positions, his understanding of the Arab mind and in particular of the strangely anachronistic world of the Gulf states.

In 1969, at the age of 52, Henderson was appointed Political Agent in Qatar. The post was tailor-made for him, and he for the post, and he stayed there for five years. Latterly he seved as Ambassador, until his retirement from the public service in 1974.

It would have been hard to imagine him as a head of mission in a post where more *strident qualities were called for, yet when he left Qatar it was equally hard to imagine* anyone else bringing to the place the gentle authority which was his hallmark.

By the time of his retirement Henderson was still only 57. He knew the Gulf better than most Englishmen. He had seen it from the different standpoints of soldier, businessman and diplomat, and he had known it as it changed with such dramatic suddenness from almost medieval lethargy to an area whose oil gave it vital political, economic and commercial significance.

There were many markets for such knowledge, but Henderson turned to the academic. He lectured at a number of American universities, the archetypal expatriate Englishman. He was an honorary fellow at the London School of Economics and for five years he pursued a close academic relationship with institutions in Abu Dhabi.

In the early 1980s he served for a year as the Director of the Council for Advancement of Arab-British Understanding *and for a further year as chairman of the American Educational Trust, before returning once again to the Gulf. And in 1988 he drew together his four decades of experience of the Arab world and the Gulf in This Strange Eventful History, a memoir of the early, now almost forgotten, days of what were to become the United Arab Emirates and Oman.*

Towards the end of his time in Qatar, Henderson was appointed CMG. In 1960 he had married Jocelyn Nenk, by whom he had two daughters. They settled in retirement in Oxfordshire. His wife and daughters survive him.

PROFESSOR JOHN FREMLIN

John Fremlin, Professor of Applied Radioactivity, Department of Physics, University of Birmingham, 1966-80, died on March 10 aged 82. He was born on March 4, 1913.

OVER a period of some 40 years John Fremlin developed techniques in the field of applied nuclear physics which have become established in numerous areas of this wide-ranging subject.

In the late 1950s his main interest turned from pure nuclear physics to the applications of cyclotron-produced radioisotopes in biological and other problems. Though radioactivity can be used for the assay of many chemical elements in minute quantity, Fremlin's collaboration with Dr J. L. Hardwick in studying the relation of fluorides to dental caries brought out other aspects of his inventiveness. He made sections of tooth material thinner than those achieved by the dental professionals and his use of autoradiographic techniques enabled useful advances to be made in the study of the uptake of lead in teeth.

After a brief excursion into archaeology by way of the thermoluminescence of ancient fragments of pottery, Fremlin used radioactivity induced by neutrons for measuring the distribution of calcium in the living human skeleton, and followed that by studying the body content of other biologically important elements.

Fremlin was always alert to radiation hazards, not only as hazards but as influences upon national policy and public opinion. As an expert witness at one public inquiry, he went some way to assuaging fears by eating fish caught in Cumbrian waters and measuring the almost infinitesimal amount of radioactivity passed through his own digestive system.

Descended from a well-known Kentish family, John Heaver Fremlin was born in Kingsbury, Middlesex. After attending Berkhamsted School, he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where, after graduating in Physics, he remained as a research student under Lord Rutherford in the Cavendish Laboratory. His work on nuclear transmutations was directed by M. L. E. (now Sir Mark) Oliphant and led to the award of a PhD in 1938. It also brought Fremlin into contact with a young student from Southern Rhodesia, Reinet Maasdorp, who was working under Oliphant on Rutherford's own apparatus; they were married in 1937.

Having completed his doctoral studies, Fremlin was appointed to the staff of Standard Telephones and Cables, where he worked on the development of low-power short-wave "valves", as thermionic diodes, triodes and even magnetrons were then called. His field included applications of the important principle of velocity modulation.

At the end of the war he joined Oliphant at Birmingham, the latter having become head of department there a few years earlier. Fremlin's first years in Birmingham were devoted to the Nuffield Cyclotron, which became operational in 1949, just before Oliphant left for Australia.

Fremlin was a leading member of the cyclotron research group and was responsible for many technical developments of the machine, including its service as a source of radioisotopes for medical use. He became well-known for his pioneer transmutation work with heavy ions and for exploring the possibilities of the acceleration of negative ions.

Fremlin's wife Reinet died in 1992; he is survived by a son and two daughters.

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Please help ensure that we are always there to take them under our wing by making a donation now and by remembering us in your Will.

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF Members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during the last war, during training and now, today, wherever conflict arises. Last year over £775 million was needed to help over 18,000 cases.

Please help with a donation or remember us in your will.

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THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND

DEPT. 4TT, 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR

ON THIS DAY

April 22 1916

The new Army Canteen Committee lasted until 1921 when it was replaced by the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (Naafi)

ARMY CANTEENS.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Tennant announces a new Army Canteen Committee. This is doubtless in part, if not in whole, the consequence of free debate in *The Times*. But the question at once arises, Is it to be merely a change of persons or a change of principles?

At present competition is limited. The list of approved firms lies before me. To this list can be added any local firm approved by the commanding officer. To judge from some of the names on it there is much variety in capacity of firm. Anyway it is a hole-and-corner process that a list should be thus given privilege. I notice that 11 hotels and publicans figure on the list. This means that drink is being purchased from retail agents, and that the large discount given by brewers for direct purchase is lost to the soldier funds. It is also generally understood that one at least of the privileged firms, which is not a brewery firm at all but a general store, supplies liquor. Here again it is bad business for the soldier.

The only fair method is to open the whole matter to public competition. Let inspectors test quality, and let accounts be strictly audited. Let no special favour be shown; let local tradesmen everywhere, subject to inspection, &c., have an equal chance with the big multiple shops. Nothing less should be allowed.

Further, it is not a wise policy to "contract" for amusements. I know of a camp where the contractor supplied the singers; and not very desirable ones either. The local authorities had been urged by the military authorities to do away with the small and less reputable public houses. They did so, only to find "contractor's" concerns reproduced the type. It is the duty of officers not merely to form nominal committees for these things, but effective committees.

The truth is that the contractors are lining their own nests at the cost of the soldiers always. Even money changing abroad is not satisfactory. Only 1f. 25c. is given for the 1s in canteens, whereas 1f. 40c. has been obtainable.

This raises a further point. Is there any reason why the canteens abroad should be almost exclusively in the hands of one cooperative society? So far as the soldier is concerned, there is no cooperation in it. The society is registered under the under the Industrial Acts. I have before me its published board of management. They are mostly officers in the Service; and some of them, I am informed, were recently heads of regimental institutes. Clearly there is a great deal of "military" money invested in it. Surely it is not a good thing that a society of this kind should have the privilege of making a good deal of money out of supplies to the private soldiers.

The truth is there will be no finality till the Government take it up themselves and abolish these private lists altogether. Let us have Government control—a general manager and a board of management, a head buyer for each article, one inspector for so many managers, a buying department and a distributive department, perfectly open competition, and strict audit ...

NEWS

Police chief revolts over changes

■ Britain's most influential chief constable is in open revolt against the radical change in the pay and terms of employment of top police officers to be introduced by the Government.

John Hoddinott, chief constable of Hampshire and President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, has written to every other top officer in the country to say he will refuse a new fixed-term appointment and performance-related pay because they threaten his constitutional independence .... **Page 1**

Oklahoma bomb suspects arrested

■ The FBI arrested one of the two prime suspects in Wednesday's Oklahoma City bombing, Justice Department sources said .... **Page 1**

Bully's allowance

A boy aged ten who was suspended for terrorising a school was to be allowed back into lessons after agreeing to hit classmates only seven times a week .... **Page 1**

Honour for Thatcher

Baroness Thatcher is to receive the Order of the Garter ..... **Page 1**

Tory rebels shunned

John Major is being advised by loyalist ministers to prolong the exile of most of the whipless Tory rebels .... **Page 2**

Discrimination claim

The woman solicitor who has been *blamed for "outing" the Law Society's Vice-President over sexual harassment is being taken to an industrial tribunal over alleged racial and sexual discrimination* .... **Page 3**

Negotiators praised

Scotland Yard negotiators won praise for their role in winning freedom for six Britons ..... **Page 4**

Cola market fizzy

The Prince of Wales is but one of the new players in the cola *market* .... ***Page 8***

Minister's protest

Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister, joined animal rights protesters at Dover and harangued police .... **Page 9**

Malaria vaccine

Scientists at Oxford have created a potential vaccine against malaria .... **Page 10**

Au revoir Mitterrand

France starts ringing down the curtain on the era of François Mitterrand tomorrow....... **Page 13**

Nuclear pact offer

The Clinton Administration offered to upgrade negotiations with North Korea in an attempt to save a nuclear weapons accord **Page 15**

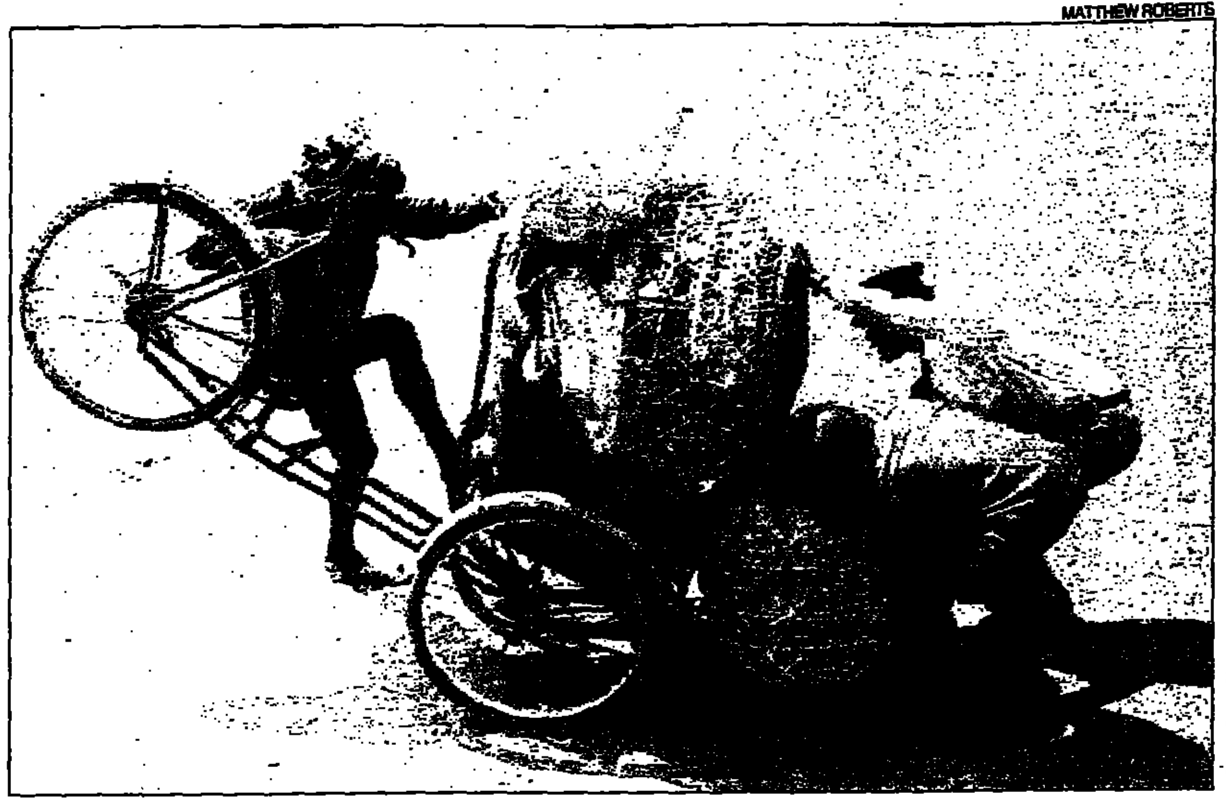
Japan's terror

Noxious fumes spread through a store in Yokohama .... **Page 16**

A wonder horse starts his campaign

■ *At about 3pm a horse steps out at* Newbury and tries to justify expectation that would have embarrassed Pegasus. Celtic Swing is only 6-1 to complete the Triple Crown, a feat last achieved by Nijinsky in 1970 .... **Page 1**

MATTHEW ROBERTS



A Cambodian cycle-rickshaw driver is helped to right his vehicle near the central market in Phnom Penh

OPINION

Love and la patrie: France's presidential election system allows one vote with the heart *and one with the head: this* year's campaign for the Elysée may prove to be an affair of the heart throughout .... **Page 19**

Coke sec: If "New Age" confections for "adults" help the man who cannot drink alco*hol to have fun, long may* they fizz at us............ **Page 19**

PAPERS

Many will want revenge for this vicious act that spared not even babies. It could lead to malicious stereotyping of *innocent citizens who share* only religious or political beliefs or ethnic backgrounds *with the bombers. That must* be avoided — *USA Today*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: *The reaction* to this week's outrage is dangerous. Governments must not be intimidated ... **Page 18**

Peter Brimelow: America, they say, was built by its immigrants. But today's public immigration policy is threatening disaster .... **Page 18**

OBITUARIES

R.E.S. **Wyatt**, *former* England cricket captain; **Dennis Hobden**, Labour MP for Brighton, Kemptown, 1964-70; **Edward Henderson**, Arabist and diplomat: **Professor John Fremlin**, nuclear physicist ...... **Page 21**

LETTERS

On accusations of vulgarity at the National Film Theatre .... **Page 19**

BUSINESS

Economy: A *small fall* in high-street sales and a rise in receiverships make a decision *to raise* interest rates more difficult........... **Page 23**

Rothmans: The chairman of the tobacco group demanded that the Stock Exchange "get to the bottom of leaks" that sent the company's shares soaring hours before a £4.15 billion bid was announced .... **Page 23**

Banking: Moving from Hong Kong to London knocked Sir William Purves, chairman of the company that owns the Midland Bank, out of the millionaire's club........... **Page 23**

Markets: *The FT-SE 100 In*dex rose by 25.2 points to 3199.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index ended unchanged at 84.5 .... **Page 24**

SPORT

Football: Birmingham City and Carlisle United will attract 75,000 fans to Wembley stadium tomorrow for the Auto Windscreens Shield final .... **Page 43**

Cricket: Graeme Hick, the England batsman, looks thin and only *cautiously confident* about his recovery as he starts the season after a back injury .... **Page 44**

Boxing: David Miller analyses the threat posed by the German challenger who takes on George Foreman, the world champion grandfather, this weekend ... **Page 38**

CAR 95

Motor sport at risk: A Bill going through Parliament could radically alter rallying in this country............ **Page 1**

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Clause and effect: In fighting the *battle* to *ditch Clause 4*, Tony Blair has passed the first real test of his leadership, Anne McElvoy writes .... **Page 8**

Long distance Walker: Alan Jackson meets Scott *Walker*, back on track after an 11-year silence .... **Page 18**

Fatale attraction: Charles Bremner falls for Fanny Ardant, the French femme fatale on and off screen........................ **Page 32**

Ahead for figures: Waists become the centre of attention, Iain R. Webb writes .... **Page 40**

Photography competition: A chance to win £2,000 and to show your work at a top gallery .... **Page 45**

WEEKEND

Cover story: As Take Our *Daughters To Work Day* approaches, Catherine Milton asks children about the day *they spent at* work **Pages 1, 3**

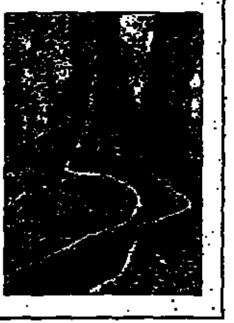
Holy smoke: God moves in mysterious ways, and so does the Top Ten, says Richard Morrison on the popularity *of religious music* ...... **Page 5**

Globe goes up: The thatched roof is on the new Globe at Southwark, and plans are being made for the inaugural season in June 1996 .... **Page 5**

Gardening: *Top horticultural shows*.............. **Page 8**

Travel: James MacManus on hotels that can keep children happy in the Caribbean .... **Page 18**

VISION



Simon says: Simon Schama's *Landscape and Memory* on BBC2...... **Page 2**

Viva divas: *Omnibus* on the *peculiar appeal of the operat*ic soprano .... **Page 3**

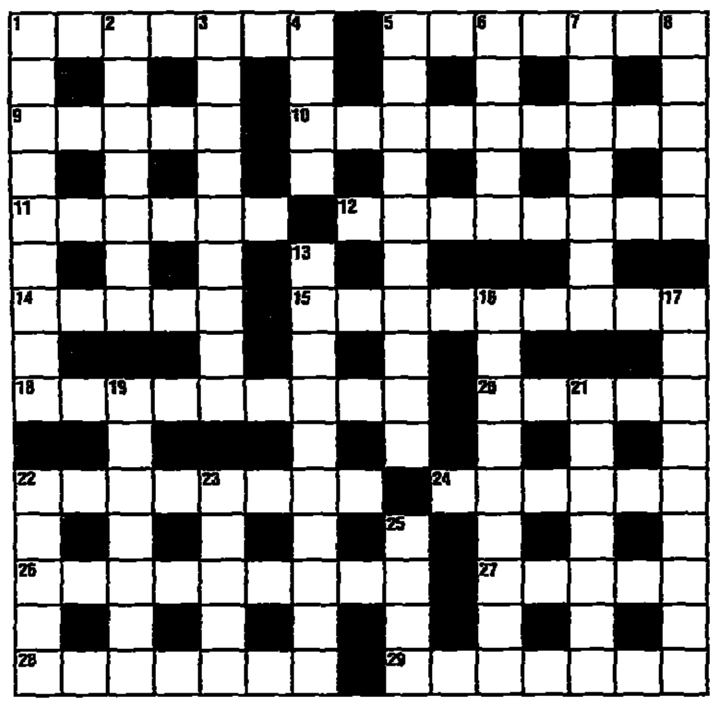
Brando and Bogart: The pick of the week's films ..... **Page 4**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,836

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



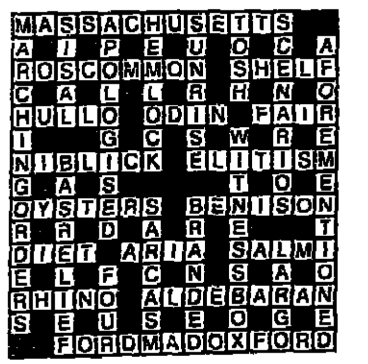
ACROSS

1 One page in dictionary a student needed about a complex matter (7).
5 Dog rose for walk on Brighton front (7).
9 Escape the clutches of boy rejected by sweetheart (5).
10 Where the pharmacist draws his money? (9).
11 Philippic from one caught in traffic (6).
12 Big name bowled out by speed (6).
14 Demoralise a French soldier (5).
15 *Part of joint bank, perhaps, one* involving the French (5,4).
18 *Grouse, though initially silent* (9).
20 Champions among the three-quarters (5).
22 Short stories featuring the new girl's return (8).
24 Twitch string holding key (6).
26 Refusing to recognise the college one's entered (9).
27 A great expanse, once a shambles (5).
28 Exceptional rise expected from the *surplus* (7).
29 Skipper, say, is the one who takes risks (7).

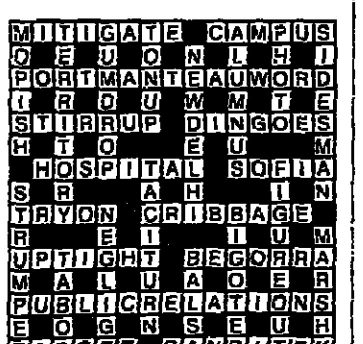
DOWN

1 Make one rough, say, knock out another (9).
2 Relief over the weight chart (7).
3 Fictitious name gets badly up my nose about *Howard's End* (9).
4 Old king gets love game (4).
5 Indicating person about to give an address (10).
6 Sharp edge to a couple of notes (5).
7 *Subaltern, upset, concealed nothing the code of chivalry required* (7).
8 See about a right forward (5).
13 Damage tomb occupied by popular German nobleman (10).
16 Enough space here for Katisha's exhibition? (5,4).
17 Oriental novelist occupying attention (9).
19 Crook is saved by counsels (7).
21 *Clot justifies unceremonious dis*missal most of all (7).
22 Part of marina dirty at deepest point (5).
23 Base notes expressing mood, say (5).
25 Keen to move sweet little Miss *Brown up* (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,830



Solution to Puzzle No 19,835



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *K D Williamson, Surbiton, Surrey; C Pearson, Cliffe, Kent; J Martin, Liverpool; J Bharier, Leyburn, N Yorkshire; S Packard, Brentwood, Essex.*

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.51 am	8.06 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
12.17 pm	2.27 am

Last quarter today

London 8.08 pm to 5.49 am
Bristol 8.18 pm to 5.59 am
Edinburgh 8.33 pm to 5.49 am
Manchester 8.22 pm to 5.52 am
Penzance 8.26 pm to 6.14 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
5.43 am	8.17 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
1.30 pm	3.30 am

New moon April 29

London 8.10 pm to 5.47 am
Bristol 8.19 pm to 5.57 am
Edinburgh 8.35 pm to 5.47 am
Manchester 8.24 pm to 5.50 am
Penzance 8.29 pm to 6.12 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.36	6.37	6.57	[illegible]
Aberdeen	6.34	3.60	7.09	[illegible]
Avonmouth	-	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	4.17	3.17	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cardiff	-	-	[illegible]	[illegible]
Devonport	11.23	4.56	11.42	4.57
Dover	3.57	5.69	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	4.42	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Falmouth	10.32	4.33	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glasgow	5.45	4.23	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	4.40	3.65	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	3.11	4.95	[illegible]	4.92
Hull	11.14	[illegible]	-	-
Ilfracombe	11.05	7.62	11.41	7.62
King's Lynn	11.30	5.68	-	-
Leith	7.47	4.90	8.22	4.75
Liverpool	4.07	8.41	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lowestoft	3.41	2.14	[illegible]	[illegible]
Margate	5.00	4.27	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milford Haven	11.32	5.68	-	-
Newquay	10.32	5.54	11.03	5.56
Oban	10.53	2.75	-	-
Penzance	10.00	4.36	10.33	4.45
Portland	11.27	1.47	-	-
Portsmouth	4.07	4.72	4.52	4.15
Shoreham	4.00	5.25	4.42	5.22
Southampton	3.36	3.57	4.23	4.01
Swansea	11.32	7.32	-	-
Tees	3.54	4.70	3.42	4.67
Walton-on-Naze	4.47	3.82	5.05	3.80

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are BST

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: London Weather Centre, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Kirkwall, Orkney, 0.39in; highest sunshine: Eastbourne and Hastings, 12.5hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** Northern England and North Wales will dawn bright, then cold, wet weather from the Midlands and southern England will reach northern districts during the morning. There will be heavy rain at times and a strong to gale north or northeasterly wind. Brighter, warmer weather with a few showers will reach southeast England in the morning and spread to all central and southern districts in the afternoon. Northern Scotland should have a mainly dry, sunny day. Southern Scotland will have rain from late afternoon.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England:** early rain, turning brighter with a few showers. Wind strong northerly, becoming light southeasterly. Warmer, max 15C (59F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N:** a wet morning; turning brighter and mainly dry in the afternoon. Wind strong northeasterly, becoming light southeasterly later. Max 14C (57F).

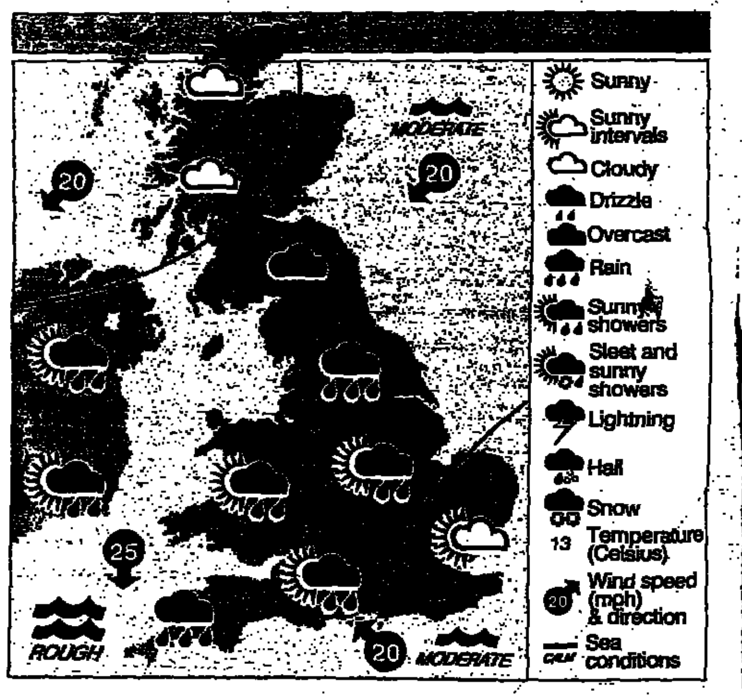
☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** wet into the afternoon, then brighter with showers, some heavy. Wind strong to gale northerly, becoming moderate southeasterly later. Cold, max 9C (48F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England:** bright at first, turning wet with some heavy rain. Snow on hills. Clearing up in the evening. Wind strong to gale northeasterly. Cold, max 9C (48F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland:** sunny for a while, but rain late afternoon and evening. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly dry and sunny. A few showers. Chilly, max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** some sunshine but showers or longer spells of rain.



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

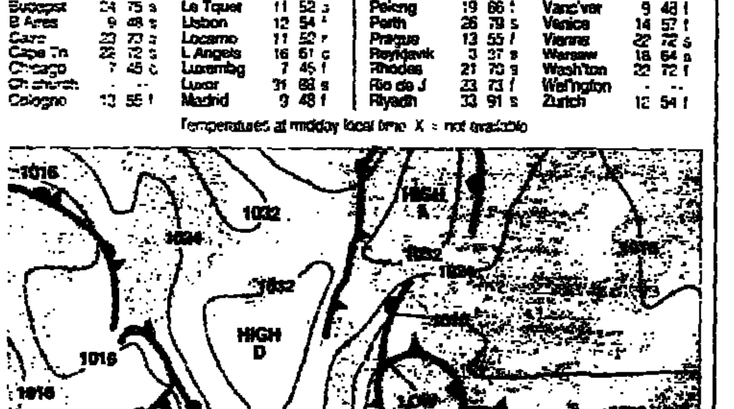
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.5	0.20	8	46	sl	London	10.3	-	13	55	s
Anglesey	8.4	0.12	8	46	sh	Lowestoft	7.6	-	11	52	sn
Aspatria	8.6	-	9	48	s	Manchester	7.4	0.13	9	48	t
Aviemore	2.3	0.25	6	43	sn	Minehead	X				
Belfast	7.2	0.06	8	46	h	Morecambe	10.0	-	10	50	s
Birmingham	9.8	-	9	48	t	Newcastle	5.5	0.10	9	48	h
Bognor R	11.7	0.05	11	52	s	Newquay	12.1	-	9	48	s
Bournem'th	8.8	-	11	52	s	Norwich	9.8	-	10	50	s
Bristol	X					Nottingham	X				
Buxton	9.0	0.08	6	43	b	Oxford	11.9	-	11	52	s
Cardiff	10.8	0.02	10	50	h	Penzance	9.8	0.03	12	54	s
Clacton	8.9	0.07	11	52	c	Plymouth	8.7	0.02	10	50	sn
Cromer	10.0	-	8	46	s	Poole	7.2	-	12	54	s
Doncaster	9.4	0.02	10	50	sh	Prestatyn	X	0.07	8	46	sh
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	7.4	0.02	11	52	t
Eastbourne	12.5	-	10	50	s	Ryde	10.1	0.04	10	50	s
Edinburgh	3.3	-	8	46	b	Salcombe	8.3	0.02	10	50	s
Eskdalemuir	1.8	-	6	43	sn	Sandown	9.3	-	11	52	s
Exmouth	10.3	0.05	9	48	h	Saunton Snd	10.9	0.07	10	50	s
Falmouth	X	0.02	10	50	s	Scarboro'	5.4	0.30	7	45	sl
Fishguard	10.5	0.22	7	45	h	Scilly Isles	11.7	0.11	10	50	h
Folkestone	12.0	0.07	10	50	s	Shanklin	11.3	-	10	50	s
Glasgow	5.8	0.01	9	48	sh	Shrewsbury	5.0	0.11	9	48	sh
Guernsey	X					Skegness	7.7	0.05	9	48	t
Hastings	12.5	-	11	52	s	Southend	10.1	0.03	10	50	s
Hayling I	11.2	-	10	50	s	Southport	8.3	0.19	8	46	sh
Hove	10.3	0.06	10	50	s	Southsea	11.1	-	10	50	s
Hunstanton	10.0	-	9	48	s	Stornoway	2.9	0.36	7	45	sh
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	11.6	0.15	12	54	s
Isle of Man	6.8	0.02	8	46	sn	Teignmouth	10.2	-	9	48	s
Jersey	10.5	0.08	11	52	h	Tenby	11.9	-	10	50	s
Kinloss	2.2	0.07	8	46	sh	Tiree	3.6	0.06	7	45	h
Leeds	8.3	0.17	11	52	h	Torquay	10.0	-	9	48	s
Lerwick	X					Ventnor	11.1	0.01	11	52	s
Leuchars	5.4	-	8	46	b	Weymouth	11.2	0.01	10	50	s
Liverpool	7.4	0.22	7	45	h						

These are Thursday's figures

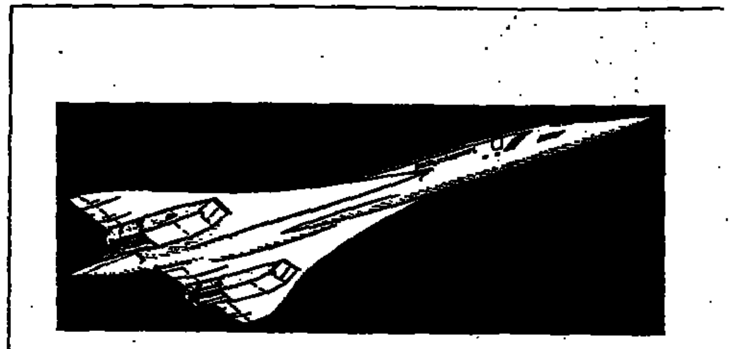
ABROAD

Ajaccio	27	81	f	C'phagn	10	50	s	Majorca	18	64	c	Rome	21	70	s
Akrotiri	19	66	s	Corfu	20	68	s	Malaga	16	64	s	Salzburg	15	59	f
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Dublin	9	48	f	Malta	19	66	f	S F'risco	12	54	s
Algiers	14	57	f	Dubrovnik	17	63	s	Melb'rne	16	53	c	Santiago	27	81	s
Amst'dm	10	50	f	Faro	16	61	f	Mexico C	25	77	s	S Paulo	21	70	c
Athens	19	66	s	Florence	23	73	f	Miami	29	84	s	Seoul	14	57	r
Bahrain	28	82	f	Frankfurt	13	55	f	Milan	17	63	f	Sing'por	30	86	f
Bangkok	36	97	s	Funchal	17	63	f	Montreal	9	48	s	St'kholm	5	41	c
Barbados	27	81	f	Geneva	10	50	f	Moscow	21	70	s	Strasb'rg	13	55	s
Barcelona	14	57	f	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Munich	13	55	s	Sydney	18	64	f
Beirut	18	64	f	Helsinki	10	50	s	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tangier	16	61	f
Belgrade	25	77	c	Hong K	26	79	s	Naples	24	75	s	Tel Aviv	20	68	c
Berlin	6	43	f	Innsbrck	17	63	f	N Delhi	31	88	s	Tenerife	20	68	c
Bermuda	22	72	s	Istanbul	16	61	s	N York	19	66	s	Tokyo	20	68	s
Biarritz	7	45	r	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	16	61	c	Toronto	7	45	f
Bordeaux	6	43	r	Jo'burg	22	72	s	Oslo	7	45	f	Tunis	21	70	f
Brussels	10	50	s	L Palmas	21	70	c	Paris	10	50	s	Valencia	18	64	s
Budapest	24	75	s	Le Touqt	11	52	s	Peking	19	66	f	Vanc'ver	9	48	f
B Aires	9	48	s	Lisbon	12	54	f	Perth	26	79	s	Venice	14	57	f
Cairo	23	73	s	Locarno	11	52	r	Prague	13	55	f	Vienna	22	72	s
Cape Tn	22	72	s	L Angels	16	61	c	Reykjavik	3	37	s	Warsaw	18	64	s
Chicago	7	45	c	Luxembg	7	45	f	Rhodes	21	70	s	Wash'ton	22	72	f
Ch'church	-	--		Luxor	31	88	s	Rio de J	23	73	f	Wellngton	-	--	
Cologne	13	55	f	Madrid	9	48	f	Riyadh	33	91	s	Zurich	12	54	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart from noon: low E will move slowly west and gradually fill; high D is expected to build as it remains slow-moving south of Iceland. little change in high A



ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde from Heathrow to Nice on 2 July
● six night Oriana cruise from Cannes to
Southampton via Tarragona and Lisbon
● *Orient-Express to Victoria* £1,999

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 July
● six night Oriana cruise to St Petersburg via Oslo and
Copenhagen ● Concorde return to Heathrow £1,999

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● Niagara with helicopter ● Phantom of the Opera
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or £2,699 for Toronto with Ryder Cup on 20 Sept.

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Monday, 8 May ● visit Cathedral ● 100-minute
Concorde supersonic *luncheon flight* to Heathrow £499

QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

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● *two night QE2 cruise to* Southampton via Guernsey
● Orient-Express to Victoria £999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 July ● ten night
Land of the Midnight Sun cruise on QE2 to the Norwegian
Fjords ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Concorde to Stavanger on 24 July ● two night QE2 cruise to
Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

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cruise to New York ● tour Boston, Montreal, Ottawa, and
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Stock market launches assault on 3,200 level

MELVYN MARCUS 25

Our City Editor explores the Gas Bill

SPORT 38-44

Robson prepared to take centre stage once again

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook | SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995 | A

Business failures increase

Fall in retail sales adds to rates dilemma

By Janet Bush and Jon Ashworth

THE dilemma facing the Chancellor when he meets the Governor of the Bank of England to discuss interest rates next month was sharpened yesterday by news of a small fall in high street sales in March and a rise in the number of receiverships in the first three months of this year.

This economic news adds to accumulating evidence that the economy is slowing down even before the full impact of higher mortgage payments and taxes, the latest round of which were implemented this month, are felt. On the other hand, Kenneth Clarke has to take into account cost pressures in industry and the weakness of sterling.

In recent weeks, there has been a strong consensus that Mr Clarke will accede to demands from the Bank of England to raise rates on May 5. But the latest evidence of economic slowdown means that many in the City are opposed to higher rates.

Retail sales fell by a seasonally adjusted 0.1 per cent in March compared with February, having jumped by 1.3 per cent in February. Statisticians and the British Retail Consortium argued that this was because of the timing of Easter but a longer run of figures confirmed that retail sales growth is stagnating.

Taking the latest three months against the previous three, a better guide to underlying trends, sales volumes were down 0.1 per cent, according to the Central Statistical Office. Volumes were up only 1.5 per cent in the latest three months compared with a year ago.

Mr Clarke welcomed the figures, saying that he did not want an artificial consumer boom that would not last. But many in the City are now arguing that another rate rise could produce overkill and too slow a recovery.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse Group, suggested that a decision to raise interest rates next month based on sterling's present weakness could prove to be counter-productive. "The short term capital attracted by higher rates could be outweighed considerably by long-term money flooding out as the economy drops into a hole.

Fears of another rise in interest rates subsided as the latest slide in retail sales was taken as further evidence of a slowdown in the economy. Investors were encouraged as share prices attacked the 3,200 level. The FT-SE 100 index closed 25.2 points higher at 3,199.9, reducing the fall on the week to 8.9 points. Gilts scored gains of up to £¼.

"This would only exacerbate sterling's difficulties," he said.

Richard Brown, deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said businesses and consumers are proving to be highly sensitive to recent interest rate and tax rate rises. He urged the authorities to resist interest rate rises "for any reason other than to control domestic inflation".

Compounding concerns about the state of the economy yesterday were figures showing that the number of business receiverships increased by 5.6 per cent to 507 in the first three months of the year compared with the previous three months, according to KPMG, the accountant.

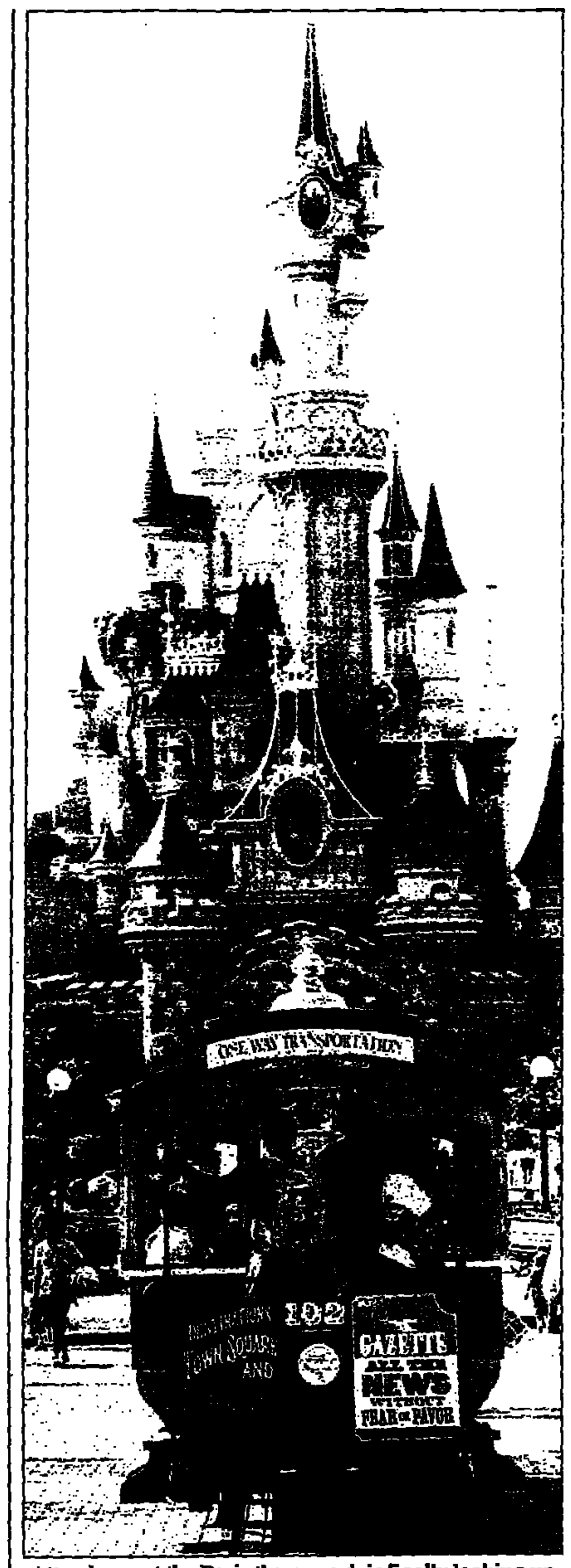
The number of receiverships was still 16 per cent lower than for the same time last year, suggesting that the recovery remains on course, but Tim Hayward, KPMG's head of corporate recovery, said that it be would be over-optimistic to assume there would be any further substantial fall in the number of corporate failures during the rest of the year.

The retail sector remains particularly vulnerable to fragile demand. Some 58 retail outlets went into receivership in the first quarter of 1995, compared with 51 in the same period in 1994. The latest casualty of the sector is Bookscene, a bargain books-to-stationery company based in Northampton which has just called in the receivers, placing 200 jobs at risk.

UK government bonds ended with modest gains yesterday on the evidence of weakening growth which limits its inflationary worries and provides an argument against higher base rates.

Sterling — along with other currencies, notably the dollar — had a quiet day as foreign exchange dealers exercised caution ahead of next week's meetings in Washington — the Group of Seven on Tuesday, and the International Monetary Fund on Wednesday and Thursday.

The pound ended unchanged from Thursday's close on its trade weighted index at 84.5. The dollar was quoted in late European trading near its lows for the day at around DM1.3730 and Y82.85.



Attendance at the Paris theme park is finally looking up

Losses tumble at Euro Disney

By Martin Waller

A SHARP upturn in the fortunes of Euro Disney, owner of the theme park east of Paris, prompted a boost in the value of the shares and hopes that the project could be heading for its first profit.

Euro Disney says net losses in the less important winter half to March 31 fell to Fr241 million from Fr1.06 billion, mainly because of financial restructuring last year; this cut the amount payable to its parent, the Walt Disney Company in the US, but majority of the improvement came from a Fr600 million reduction in lease rental expenses.

The park is now on target for attendance figures of 10.5 million in the current year, at the top end of forecasts given during the restructuring but well below expectations of 13 million a year when the shares were floated in 1989.

This would be a sharp rise from the 8.9 million people who visited the attraction last year but it would come at the expense of spending per head — hotel room rates were cut last year, and entry prices have been cut for this summer season.

Philippe Bourguignon, the chairman and chief executive, warned shareholders against too high hopes before the full attendance picture was known. "These results show we are on the right track. Nevertheless, it is premature to draw conclusions on the full year before the end of the summer," he said.

Higher attendance during the winter helped send revenues at the park ahead by 9 per cent, while a rise in occupancy rates meant hotel revenues were 7 per cent up.

Euro Disney shares, 118p in January, rose 17p to 188p. Rebecca Winnington-Ingram, leisure analyst at Morgan Stanley, said: "People aren't spending more after they come through the gates, but at least they are coming through in greater numbers."

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Marks & Spencer moves into pensions

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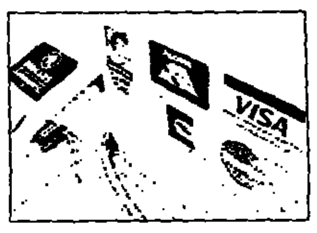

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The new-style credit cards. A good deal?

UNIT TRUST SPECIAL FEATURE

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The good buys. The best and worst performers

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3199.9	(+25.2)
Yield	4.26%	
FT-SE A All share	1589.15	(+10.68)
Nikkei	16968.24	(+325.16)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4252.79	(+22.13)*
S&P Composite	507.51	(+2.22)*
Federal Funds	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Long Bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	7.35%*	(7.35%)
3-mth Interbank	[illegible]	([illegible])
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	[illegible]	([illegible])
New York		
$	1.6100*	(1.6090)
London:		
$	1.6107	(1.6127)
DM	2.2136	(2.2244)
FFr	7.8510	(7.8710)
SFr	1.8299	(1.8390)
Yen	133.57	(133.78)
£ Index	84.5	(84.5)
London:		
DM	1.3748*	(1.3848)
FFr	4.8825*	(4.9013)
SFr	1.1380*	(1.1435)
Yen	82.90*	(83.23)
$ Index	87.6	(87.5)
Tokyo close Yen 83.77		
Brent 15-day (Jul)	$18.05	($18.10)
London close	$390.55	($393.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Liberty boost

Strong trading at its flagship Regent Street store in London helped Liberty boost profits 28 per cent last year. The new Libery at Heathrow helped. Three new store openings are planned. Page 25

Rothmans seeks answers on leak

By Colin Campbell

LORD Swaythling, chairman of Rothmans, the tobacco group, last night demanded that the Stock Exchange "get to the bottom of leaks" that sent Rothmans shares racing ahead in heavy turnover only hours before a group announcement of a buy-out approach by Richemont.

Rothmans shares initially jumped 41p to 529p on Thursday morning even before the Stock Exchange obliged Rothmans to issue a holding announcement that talks were under way. The shares subsequently climbed to 593p and, after confirmation that Richemont was to offer 625p for the rest of Rothmans it does not already own, the shares rose again to close up 118p at 606p.

The Stock Exchange is investigating the heavy turnover and sharp share price movements.

Lord Swaythling said the companies and their advisers had worked on the proposals "for several months" without any leak.

He noted that, on three successive days before Thursday's official announcement Rothmans' share price had fallen. "It was only on the morning of our announcement which we rushed out that turnover picked up and the share price started to run.

"There has been a leak. I am furious. It is unhealthy and unsatisfactory. There should be no excuse why the Stock Exchange can't get to the bottom of the leak."

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Chrysler chief could make $8m

From Sean Mac Carthaigh in New York

ROBERT EATON, the Chrysler chief executive, who has vowed to fight Kirk Kerkorian's $23 billion bid for his company, stands to walk away with at least $8 million profit from share options if the deal goes through. This would add to the $7.6 million Mr Eaton has received since 1992 in salary and bonus payments.

The latest proxy statement from America's third-largest carmaker reveals that in the event of a change in control of the firm, all unexercised share options held by top management would become exercisable. Mr Eaton is listed as controlling a total of 517,404 shares and share options at the end of 1994, ranging from $35 to $47. Mr Kerkorian's offer to pay $55 a share represents a 40 per cent premium on Chrysler's closing price of $39.25 on April 11, the day before the bid.

The document shows that Mr Eaton's 1994 salary was $1,063,750, but his bonus was $2,200,000. Although Chrysler announced record 1994 profits, the first quarter of this year saw earnings slump 37 per cent to $592 million or $1.59 a share from $938 million or $2.55 per share in 1994.

Money managers are losing faith in Mr Kerkorian's ability to pull off the takeover. In a blow to the proposal's credibility, Bear Stearns, the US broker, told Chrysler on Wednesday it would not participate in the takeover. Investors responded by sending Chrysler shares $1.75 lower to $44.50 on Thursday. Yesterday they edged up at midday to $44.85.

Bank chief's pay falls to £633,000

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

Purves: housing benefit

MOVING from Hong Kong to London last year knocked Sir William Purves, chairman of HSBC Holdings, out of the millionaire's club. His pay for 1994 fell from £1.06 million to £633,000.

According to HSBC's annual report, his pay in 1993 included housing and other benefits which, said the bank, are standard for expatriats working in Hong Kong.

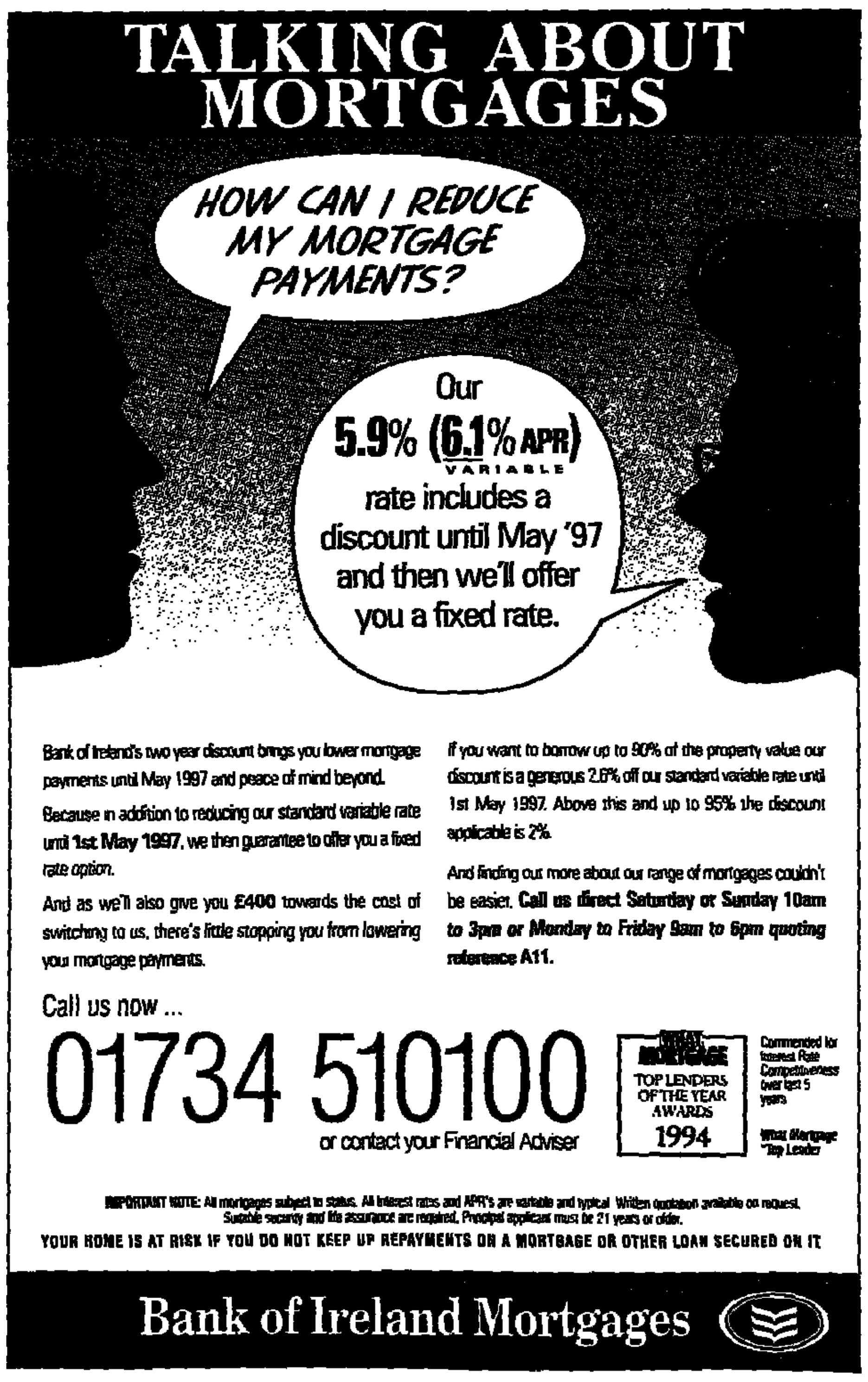
HSBC moved its headquarters to London as a condition for its acquisition of Midland Bank in 1992. Sir William received some benefits in 1993 as he did not make the move to London until October 1993.

The report also shows that HSBC paid out £550,000 in compensation to a senior executive last year. The payment was disclosed in the bank's annual report, but it refused to give further details.

It is thought the payment was made to one of five senior executives who were HSBC's highest-paid employees last year, other than directors. The five, thought to be traders, made between £600,000 and £750,000 last year, including bonus payments totalling £1.3 million.

The highest-paid director last year was John Gray, chairman and chief executive of HongkongBank, which contributes the bulk of HSBC's profits. That includes about £400,000 in housing benefits. His basic pay was £366,000. In 1994 the Hong Kong region contributed £1.4 billion of HSBC's £3.17 billion pre-tax profits, compared with £982,000 from the UK.

Keith Whitson, who took over as chief executive of Midland Bank from Sir Brian Pearse last year, was paid £320,000 including a £45,000 bonus. His pay is low compared with the heads of the other big four UK banks, though it reflects only nine months as in the job.



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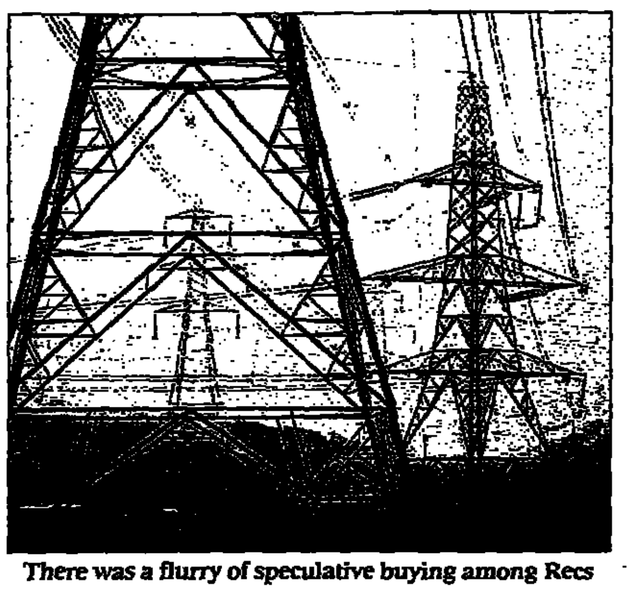
STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Bears scuttle for cover as index nears 3,200



There was a flurry of speculative buying among Recs

STOCK MARKET bears were scuttling for cover as share prices shrugged off their worries about another rise in interest rates to launch a *sustained assault on the* 3,200 level.

In the event, they failed, falling short of their target by a whisker with the FT-SE 100 *index sporting* a rise at the close of 25.2 at 3,199.9. Yesterday's performance did, however, restrict the fall on the week to just 8.9 points.

Brokers said the revival in investor confidence was triggered by *the reversal for retail* sales during March after February's rise. This may have been bad news for the stores sector, but was received by the City as further evidence of a slowdown in the economy.

Dealers are hoping it may postpone the need for a further rise in interest rates which was hinted at in the minutes, published this week, of the last meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and *Eddie George, Governor of* the Bank of England. A late wobble by the pound on the currency markets did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm.

There were also technical factors at work behind yesterday's performance, including the expiry of the April FT-SE 100 index options. Brokers said prices had been squeezed higher as market-makers *struggled to cover several bad* positions. Trading conditions generally remained thin although the subsequent manoeuvring among market-*makers helped to swell* turnover to 676 million shares.

There was a renewed flurry of speculative buying among the electricity distributors. **London Electricity** stood out with a rise of 11p at 655p, with almost 1 million shares changing hands as a story went round that Total, the US oil giant, was ready to bid. Total moved quickly to deny the story. Brokers *said it sounded* as if someone had got the wrong end of the stick, but it helped to redirect the spotlight back on the sector.

There was also speculative support for **Northern**, with the price climbing 33p to 810p after this week's call for an extraordinary general meeting *to discuss a proposal for* the company to accept a relaunched bid of 950p a share from Trafalgar House.

Trafalgar allowed an offer of £11 a share to lapse after the industry regulator threatened tougher price controls for the Recs. Trafalgar then reduced its offer to 950p a share, but could not get the apporoval of the Northern board. A share*holder pressure group headed* by Wyser-Pratte, the Wall Street broker, claims to have the backing of 10 per cent of shareholders.

Elsewhere in the sector, there were gains for **East Midland**, 15p to 669p, **Eastern**, *8p to 632p*, **Midlands**, 8p to 656p, **Southern**, 13p to 660p and **Yorkshire**, 12p to 691p.

The international arbitrageurs were busy again in shares of **Rothmans International**, 2p firmer at 608p, as *more than 16 million shares* were traded. Richemont, Rothman's biggest shareholder, this week said it was ready to offer 625p a share, sending *the share price soaring by* more than £1. The arbitrageurs *are hoping for a cash* offer for their shares within the next couple of months to make a turn on the margin. They claim this would offer a *better return than leaving* their cash in the bank.

Vendôme, the luxury goods group, which was floated off from Rothmans and is still 70 per cent owned by Richemont, jumped 19p to 497p. **BAT Industries**, now likely to be*come Britain's only tobacco* producer, celebrated with a rise of 13p to 456p.

Hopes of a bid soon continue to drive **Kwik Save**, the food retailer, sharply higher. The price added a further 13p to 608p. A week ago, *it was 557p.* There is growing speculation that Hong Kong-based Dairy Farms may be close to selling its near 30 per cent stake in the *company to a bidder. Mean*while, **Tesco** eased 3p to 269p as UBS, the broker, urged clients to switch into **J Sainsbury**, up 3p at 425p.

Euro Disneyland responded positively to news of reduced losses *and an encouraging* statement on prospects with a rise of 17p to 188p. In the first six months of the current year, the group cut pre-tax losses from Fr1 billion to Fr241 million. The theme park, near Paris, *saw revenues grow by 9* per cent after a sharp rise in attendance levels, although this was partly offset by seasonal prices for locals and *reduced food prices.*

The directors of **Intercare Group** were forced *to issue a* statement about the recent strength in the share price after another increase of 5p to 69½p. The executive directors *say they have approached the* board with a view to making a bid for the company. The board says no firm proposals have yet been received.

Scott Pickford, the oil services group, dropped 10p to *30p after issuing a profits* warning. The group said profits in the second six months would fall short of the £320,000 earned during the *first half. It blamed poor sales* of geoscience reports and pro*visions totalling* £115,000. Tony Burch is to split his dual roles of chairman and chief executive with non-executive director Michael Feilden until *a permanent successor can be* appointed. Tony Phipps has resigned from the board and several non-executive directors have been appointed.

Northumbrian Water rose 3p to 903p after securing a 25-year waste disposal contract from Cleveland Council worth £250 million.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices traded higher in thin condi*tions, with sentiment bol*stered by the drop in retail sales for March. Prices closed near their best of the day in spite of a shake-out for sterling *during late trading*.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt climbed £¼ to £104³/₃₂ in disappointing turnover, with only 30,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 firmed £¼ to £97⁵/₃₂, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £³/₁₆ to £98³¹/₃₂.

☐ ***NEW YORK:** Wall Street* shares were stronger, and the Dow Jones industrial average was 22.13 points ahead at 4,252.79 by midday.

Dalgety, the Homepride flour group, dropped 11p to 433p after BZW turned bearish of the shares. BZW is concerned that its recent £442 million acquisition of the Quaker Oats pet foods busi*ness may turn out to be expensive. BZW is believed to have cut its* pre-tax profits forecast for next year by £10 million to £148 million.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Rothmans International	608p	+111p	Richemont bid talks
Scott Pickard	30p	-10p	Profits warning
Kwik Save	608p	+33p	Bid speculation
Enterprise Oil	410p	+20p	Firmer oil price
RJB Mining	431p	+25p	Talk of a bid from Hanson
Crest Nicholson	66p	-8p	Profits warning
Travis Perkins	*277p*	*-11p*	*Profits warning*
Cable & Wireless	408p	-14p	Earnings slowdown feared
Northern Electric	810p	+43p	Call for new Trafalgar bid

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	4252.79 (+22.13)
S&P Composite	507.51 (+2.22)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16968.24 (+325.16)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	8645.39 (+14.02)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	408.42 (+2.48)

Sydney:

AO	2000.9 (-25.1)

Frankfurt:

DAX	1976.64 (+20.67)

Singapore:

Straits	2079.50 (+40.20)

Brussels:

General	7231.16 (+57.57)

Paris:

CAC-40	1928.37 (+46.37)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	589.50 (+4.60)

London:

FT 30	2435.9 (+14.5)
FT 100	3199.9 (+25.2)
FT-SE Mid 250	3505.1 (+15.8)
FT-SE-A 350	*1589.4 (+11.3)*
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1286.45 (+18.76)
FT A All-Share	1569.15 (+10.66)
FT Non Financials	1693.52 (+11.24)
FT Fixed Interest	111.12 (+0.12)
FT Govt Secs	92.41 (+0.30)
Bargains	25344
SEAQ Volume	772.7m
USM (Datastrm)	151.43 (+0.21)
US$	1.6082 (-0.0036)
German Mark	2.2113 (+0.0028)
Exchange Index	84.5 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1989
£:SDR	1.1013
RPI	147.5 Mar (3.5%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Biocomp Intl (170)	171	...
Brit Aero Uts p/p	702	...
Coral Products (60)	63	...
Dailywin (128)	128	...
Datrontech (130)	155	...
For/Col Uts (100)	100	...
Geared Inc IT (100)	98	...
Natl Power (p/p) (476)	178	+2
PTS Group (90)	96	...
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	191	+2
Precoat Intl (125)	128	...
Rainford (270)	316	−2
Schroder Inc Gth	536	+6
Scot Oriental Smlr (100)	98½	...
Superframe Wts	7	...
Vision Group (97)	145	−4

RIGHTS ISSUES

Arcon Intl n/p (Ir20p)	¾	...
Bolton Group n/p (23)	½	...
Guinness Peat n/p (20)	6½	+1
Inspec Group n/p (175)	46	+4
TBI n/p (35)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Abbey Nat	469p (+7p)
Lloyds	621p (+11p)
BTP	269p (+9p)
BAT	456p (+13p)
Copymore	190p (+20p)
Molins	565p (+10p)
Anagen	*57p (+12p)*
Huntleigh Tec	568p (+25p)
Vendome	497p (+19p)
Hamleys	213p (+8p)
Pearson	*567p (+10p)*
Ferry Pick	123p (+18p)
Kwik Save	*608p (+13p)*

FALLS:

Broken Hill	896p (-7p)
Dalgety	*433p (-11p)*
Amersham	894p (-6p)
Perpetual	*1475p (-10p)*
Smithkline	492p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Lighting up the market

RICHEMONT'S £4.15 billion bid for Rothmans appears a formality — it is hard for independent shareholders to argue the case when a 61 per cent majority owner wants to take in the minority and is backed by the directors. While the minority shareholders *may feel piqued that the rug is being pulled* from under them, they can hardly argue they are being bought out cheap. The offer is 28 per cent higher than the market price before news of the bid leaked.

The price *Richemont* is offering is good news for investors in the rest of the tobacco sector — ie shareholders in BAT, the only remaining British tobacco stock. Richemont is paying around 12 times earnings plus depreciation for Rothmans, a third more than the *market* price of BAT, despite yesterday's 3 per cent rise in the latter. Even then Richemont's offer looks reasonable, given that Rothmans *owns* cash of around £800 million and is generating another £130 million a year.

Richemont's offer also *makes BAT's acqui*sition of American Tobacco last year look particularly cheap. Rothmans is costing 7½ *times operating* earnings before depreciation, against American Tobacco's lowly 3.7 times, which seems excessive in spite of American's legal risks in the US.

It is always difficult to value BAT's tobacco interest once its *financial* services *businesses* are stripped out. But a rough estimate would suggest that the market values those businesses on a p/e of less than seven. In time, more investors are likely to appreciate the strength of the cash flow from the *cigarette business*. Rothmans shareholders could do worse than recycle Richemont's cash into BAT.

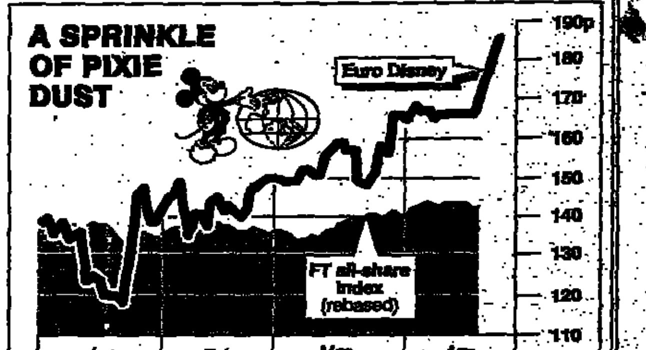
Euro Disney

FOLLOWERS of Euro Disney were keen to emphasise that its half-way figures yes*terday were only slightly* better than expected. While the company has been cautious about this year and forecast that the all-important break-even will come next time, one or two brokers *now hope that the figures* this year will be positive.

This would be a significant turning point for the project, but it would not mean all was well in the Magic Kingdom. Break-even alone does not *leave much scope for paying* dividends. Euro Disney is basing its hopes on the new Space Mountain white knuckle ride and a 20 per cent *cut in ticket prices this sum*mer, but it would be asking a lot for this to change the park's fortunes overnight. September 1998, the end of the five-year waiver of royalties payable to Walt Disney in the US, is drawing closer, and it is hard to see how, in its present state, the park will be *able to afford both* these and dividend payments on any reasonable projection of attendance figures.

Yesterday's financials show that most of the Fr814 million reduction in losses has come *from the financial* restructuring and only perhaps one franc in eight from any improvement in trading.

Prince Waleed of Saudi Arabia is currently in profit with his 24 per cent holding, since the *shares* have performed royally since the start of the year, but investors should not be over-enthusiastic.



Liberty

SLOWLY but surely Liberty is emerging as a more modern company. The businesses *have been overhauled* and, the retailing *side* is beginning to deliver results more closely in line with its peers.

The retail operations, which account for three-quarters of sales, remain the *backbone of the* group. Operating margins improved by more than 1 percentage point last year and a similar increase is likely this year. A *new format in smaller stores* concentrating on higher margin fashion accessories and gift products rather than the full fabrics and furnishing range should help bolster profits and the Muji chain is expected to move into the black this year. Even so, operating margins will remain below average for the sector, so there is scope for *further improvement*.

Turning round the textile division looks more difficult. The business has made losses *for the past six years* and last year fell further into the red. It is heavily dependent on dress fabrics, which have been hit by the relentless *decline of home dressmak*ing. The business is desperately seeking new customers but it will have to run hard to keep up with the fall-off in its traditional market.

Even if Liberty does turn *the business round*, the share price is unlikely fully to reflect the fact. The shares are still narrowly spread with the Stewart-Liberty fam*ily holding more than* 40 per cent of the equity. The group has a market *capitalisation* of £54 million and an asset value of almost £70 million. For a retailer to be trading *on* a discount to net assets is rare *indeed and suggests its share* structure still counts against the ordinary investor.

Reed Executive

THE employment agency business is highly geared with high fixed costs, where a *modest upturn in volume* falls through to the bottom line with a dramatic effect. Reed Executive struggled through the recession and is *riding on a surge in demand* for temporary staff from clients that have also seen their sales ledgers expand.

The improvement in Reed's fortunes is a reminder of just what a cash generative business employment agency is. The group has already rebuilt a cash reserve of £7 million and has a sales ledger of another £17 million which *will steadily convert into* cash. But Reed is a family-dominated, conservative business and shows little urge to throw its money *around on acquisitions*. Instead, the cash is likely to be spent on a *share buy-back*, which would enhance earnings still further. As a result the shares, although they stand on an historic p/e ratio *of 16, look* good value at 124½p.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	965-964	Jul	1075-1074
Jul	993-992	Sep	1086-1085
Sep	1011-1010	Dec	1100-1098
Dec	1032-1031	Mar	1120-1112
Mar	1053-1052		
May	1063-1062		Volume: 10378

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3185-3180	Jan	3085-3070
Jul	3169-3165	Mar	3070-3050
Sep	3133-3132	May	3050-3030
Nov	3105-3100		Volume: 4856

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	305.2-02.6
Spot: 358.5		May	305.2-01.1
Aug	344.0-43.5	Aug	304.6-99.6
Oct	313.5-12.6	Oct	292.1-86.1
Dec	306.5-04.6		Volume: 836

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	91.87	132.27	124.66
(+/-)	-0.13	+4.29	-0.27
Eng/Wales:	91.89	132.07	123.96
(+/-)	-0.12	+4.08	+1.52
(%)	+186.0	+194.0	+191.0
Scotland:	89.97	133.69	127.51
(+/-)	-1.72	+5.75	-1.94
(%)	+8.0	-88.0	+28.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	19.00	-0.15
Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.50	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.05	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.05	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.70	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	B	O
Premium Gas .15	198 (+1)	200 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	166 (-5)	168 (-4)
Non EEC 1H May	159 (-4)	160 (-4)
Non EEC 1H Jun	158 (-3)	159 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (-1)	108 (-1)
Naphtha	173 (-3)	175 (-4)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

May	157.75-58.00	Aug	156.00-56.25
Jun	*155.75-56.00*	*Sep*	*157.25-57.50*
Jul	155.00-55.25		Vol: 31621

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jun	18.52-18.54	Sep	17.44-17.50
Jul	*18.03-18.06*	*Oct*	*17.26 BID*
Aug	17.67-17.72		Vol: 34770

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	119.95	May	111.50
Jul	121.05	Sep	103.25
Sep	104.35	Nov	104.65
Nov	105.35	Jan	106.75
Jan	107.30	Mar	108.00
Volume: 309		Volume: 18	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
May	310.0	313.5
Apr	123.0	123.5
May	unq	136.0
		Volume: 43

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
May 118.25-118.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 95	2300	2290	2291
May 95	2305	2275	2290
Jun 95	2180	2180	2170
Jul 95	2005	1990	1990
Vol: 104 lots		*Open Interest: 4646*	

Index 2299 +11

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2876.0-2877.0	2849.0-2850.0	3120425
Lead ($/tonne)	624.00-626.00	635.00-635.50	150475
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1074.0-1074.5	1096.0-1096.5	491450
Tin ($/tonne)	5930.0-5940.0	5940.0-5950.0	14580
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1873.5-1874.0	1860.5-1861.0	1459100
Nickel ($/tonne)	7415.0-7420.0	7540.0-7545.0	74908

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Alld Dom.	500	38	43	50	12	14	21½
(*530½)	550	10½	17½	25	40	41	47½
Argyll	280	16½	22	26	12	15½	18½
(*286½)	300	7	13	17½	24½	27½	30
ASDA	70	11½	12½	13½	1	2	3
(*79½)	80	4½	6½	8	4½	6	7
Boots	500	17½	27½	33½	20½	24½	28
(*501)	550	2½	10	15½	59	59½	61½
Br Airways	390	29½	37½	44½	12	16½	20½
(*408)	420	14	23	30	28	32	36
BP	420	39	45	51½	5	9½	12
(*451)	460	13	22	29½	21½	26½	29
Br Steel	140	22	23½	25½	1½	3	4½
(*159½)	160	8	11	13½	8½	11	12½
C & W	390	30½	40	46	11	15	19
(*408)	420	15	25	31	26½	30	34
CU	500	58½	65½	73½	6½	13½	17
(*545)	550	25	34½	45	23½	34½	38
ICI	750	36	48	63	21½	34	39
(*754)	800	13½	25½	40	51	62½	67½
Kingfshr	420	41	50	58½	8	14½	18½
(*448)	460	18	27½	36½	26½	31½	36½
Land Sec	550	27	33	37	17½	21	25½
(*566)	600	5½	12½	16½	53	55	55½
M & S	390	29	35½	41	6½	11½	15
(*412)	420	11½	19	25	20½	26	29
Nat West	500	56	63	72½	5½	13	16½
(*542½)	550	23	32½	43½	23½	33½	37
Sainsbury	420	17½	27	33	15	18½	22
(*425)	460	4	11	16½	43	45	47
Shell	700	47	58	65½	8	14½	18½
(*726½)	750	16	28½	38	28½	37½	41
Smkl Bch	460	42½	51	59½	6½	13	17
(*491½)	500	18½	27½	37½	22	30	34½
Storehse	220	22	27	29½	4	6½	8
(*236½)	240	9	15½	18½	12½	15	16½
Trafalgar	50	8	10	11	1½	2	4½
(*56)	60	2½	5	6½	6	7	9½
Unilever	1200	51½	80½	97	23½	34	39½
(*1211½)	1250	29½	53	69½	50	59	63½
Zeneca	900	47	64	81½	25	39½	46½
(*907)	950	23½	40½	57	53½	66	72½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met.	390	21	29½	37½	2½	9½	13
(*407½)	420	4½	14	21½	15½	24½	28
Ladbroke	150	12½	18½	21	1	4	6½
(*171)	180	1½	7½	11	10	14	16½
Utd Bisc	330	20	32½	38	2	9	14
(*344½)	360	5½	17	22½	17	23	29

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
BAA	460	33	41	48	9	12½	16½
(*481½)	500	11½	20½	27½	29	32½	36
Thames W	460	39	42½	46	10½	16	21
(*490½)	500	12½	20½	26	31½	36½	41½
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	420	39	49½	54	1½	9½	13
(*456)	460	10	25½	30½	11½	25½	30
BTR	330	9	19½	24½	5½	11	17
(*332½)	360	0½	7½	12	27½	29½	35
Br Aero	483	40½	—	—	5	—	—
(*515)	531	14	—	—	25	—	—
Br Telcm	390	10½	20	24½	5½	17	15½
(*393½)	420	1	7½	12	28½	31	38½
Cadbury	409	29½	42	—	1½	5½	—
(*435½)	447	4½	19	—	15	21	—
Guinness	460	16½	31	37½	5½	14	18½
(*466½)	500	2½	12½	18½	31½	36	40
GEC	280	20	25	27½	0½	6½	8½
(*298)	300	6	12	16	8½	16	19
Hanson	220	17	20	22½	0½	4	6½
(*235½)	240	3	8½	12	7	13	16
LASMO	160	10½	16½	21	1½	5	7
(*168)	180	1½	6½	11½	12½	15½	17
Lucas	180	14	20	24½	1½	5½	9½
(*193½)	200	2½	9½	14	11	15	19½
Pilkngtn	180	5	10	14½	4	9½	11
(*180½)	200	0	3	6½	19½	23	24
Prudential	300	18½	28½	32½	2	5½	10
(*319½)	330	2½	12½	17	16½	19½	25
Redland	420	11	25½	30½	13½	21	27
(*427)	460	0½	11	15½	40½	49	53
R-Royce	160	13½	19½	21½	1	4½	7
(*171)	180	3	9	11½	10½	14	17
Tesco	260	9½	16	20½	5	9	12
(*269)	280	1	7	11	19	21	23½
Vodafone	180	12	17½	23	2	6½	9
(*188½)	200	3	8½	13½	12½	17½	19½
Williams	330	10	17½	21	8½	13	18
(*338½)	360	1	6½	9½	32	33½	37

FT-SE INDEX (*3201)

	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350
Calls						
Apr	101	51	1			
May	123½	83½	49	26	12½	4
Jun	142½	107½	78½	54	34½	20
Jul	168	134½	104½	79½	57½	41½
Dec	246	—	184½	—	138	—
Puts						
Apr				40	99	149
May	12	22	40	68	105½	151
Jun	30	45	66	92	123½	160
Jul	44½	61	81	107	136	172
Dec	93½	—	131	—	193½	—

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat.	460	23	32½	41½	9	17	20½
(*465)	500	6½	14	22½	34	39½	42½
Amstrad	175	15	—	—	4	—	—
(*184)	200	3½	7	11½	18	20½	23
Barclays	600	46½	58½	70	6½	16½	22½
(*633½)	650	16½	30½	43	27	37½	45½
Blue Circ	280	20	29½	34	6	11	15
(*291½)	300	9½	19	23½	15	20½	24½
Br Gas	300	11	18	21½	8½	12	17
(*307½)	330	1	6½	10	31½	33	36
Dixons	240	11½	14½	19½	9½	16½	17½
(*240½)	260	4	7	11	22½	30	29½
Forte	220	14½	20	23½	3½	6	8½
(*233½)	240	4	10	13½	14	16½	18½
Hillsdwn	160	21	26	28	0½	2½	3½
(*178½)	180	7	13	15½	6	9½	10½
Lonrho	160	9	13	17	6	10	12½
(*161½)	180	2	5½	9	19½	22½	24
Sears	100	5½	8	10	3	4½	5½
(*104)	110	1½	3½	5½	9½	10½	11½
Thrn Eml	1100	49	62½	76	16½	38½	45½
(*1120)	1150	23½	36½	51½	41½	66½	73
Tomkins	240	10½	15½	20	7½	14½	15½
(*241)	260	3	7½	12	20½	22	23½
TSB	240	13½	20½	24½	9	14½	15½
(*243)	260	5	11½	15½	21	26	27
Wellcome	1000	56½	62½	—	0	3	—
(*1054½)	1050	15½	24½	—	5	16½	—
	Series	Jul	Oct	Jan	Jul	Oct	Jan
Glaxo	700	46	60½	68½	18	35½	42
(*716½)	750	22½	39½	45	45	62½	69½
HSBC	700	74½	92	105½	15½	28½	35
(*749)	750	44	63½	78½	35	47½	57½
Reuter	460	39½	50	60	9½	15½	19
(*483½)	500	18	28½	38½	28	33½	37
	Series	May	Jul	Oct	May	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	300	9½	18½	24	6½	13	19
(*301½)	330	1	7	11½	28½	31	37
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Fisons	160	21½	27½	31½	3½	7½	9½
(*178½)	180	10	16½	21	11½	16½	19
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Eastern Gp	600	39½	55½	67	4	24	32
(*632)	650	11	28	42½	24½	50	58
	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	420	34½	38½	46	6½	11	14
(*448½)	460	9	17	26	27½	31½	37½
Scot Pwr	330	17	23	29	8½	17	19½
(*336)	360	4½	10	16	26½	35½	37

April 21, 1995 Tot: 43741 Call: 22581 Put: 21160 FT-SE Call: 6291 Put: 9809

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 72971	Jun 95	3202.0	3228.0	3198.0	3214.0	10556
	Sep 95	3244.5	3244.5	3244.5	3236.0	2
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4284	Jun 95	3517.0	3525.0	3517.0	3525.0	125
	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling *Previous open interest: 400431*	Jun 95	92.89	92.94	92.89	92.91	19322
	Sep 95	92.45	92.53	92.45	92.47	15143
	Dec 95	92.14	92.20	92.14	92.16	7387
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 1149	Jun 95				93.75	0
	Sep 95				93.65	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 693609	Jun 95	95.36	95.36	95.33	95.35	8636
	Sep 95	95.17	95.17	95.14	95.16	13834
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 87143	Jun 95	104-02	104-10	103-31	104-03	30123
	Sep 95	103-28	103-28	103-26	103-23	158
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 95	116.30	116.48	116.08	116.39	2649
	Sep 95				115.45	0
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 187138	Jun 95	92.58	92.67	92.45	92.53	66578
	Sep 95	92.02	92.06	91.92	91.96	277
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 19777	Jun 95	93.57	93.60	93.53	93.53	2446
	Sep 95	93.48	93.53	93.46	93.46	408
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 41737	Jun 95	96.49	96.49	96.40	96.44	3718
	Sep 95	96.36	96.36	96.26	96.32	2898
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 46324	Jun 95	93.25	93.95	93.17	93.73	27879
	Sep 95				93.08	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O'night high: 6¾ Low 4½ Week fixed: 5⅞
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6¼. Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5¾ close 6¼.

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6⅝	6¾	7¼
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	6.03-6	n/a	6.10-6.07	6.22-6.19	6.45-6.42
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applics: £3,332m allotted: £900m: Bids: £98.430% received: 42%: Last week: £98.455% received: 15 %: Avge rate: £6.2810% last wk £6.1687%: Next week: £1,100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	8-7¾	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $390.45-390.85 Close: $390.30-390.80 High: $391.75-392.15
Low: $389.10-389.60 AM: $390.35 PM: $390.35

Krugerrand: $393.00-395.00 (£244.50-246.50)

Platinum: $443.25 (£276.25) Silver: $5.65 (£3.515) Palladium: $164.25 (£102.35)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4797-2.4980	2.4787-2.4819	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	45.56-45.91	45.56-45.67	7-2pr	16-9pr
Copenhagen	8.7190-8.7510	8.7360-8.7510	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	0.9822-0.9855	0.9825-0.9850	2-6ds	4-9ds
Frankfurt	2.2120-2.2301	2.2120-2.2151	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	234.02-235.76	234.02-234.66	59-90ds	195-250ds
Madrid	198.19-198.99	198.69-198.99	41-49ds	130-143ds
Milan	2764.70-2785.50	2764.70-2774.50	9-11ds	29-31ds
Montreal	2.1911-2.3055	2.2024-2.2055	0.28-0.38ds	0.51-0.64ds
New York	1.6022-1.6112	1.6102-1.6112	0.03-0.01pr	0.19-0.16pr
Oslo	9.9920-10.0250	9.9930-10.0080	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	7.8260-7.8620	7.8440-7.8580	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	11.9990-11.9380	11.8890-11.9140	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	133.09-134.62	133.45-133.69	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	15.57-15.71	15.63-15.67	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	1.8285-1.8440	1.8285-1.8313	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3646-1.3655
Austria	9.70-9.71
Belgium (Com)	28.42-28.45
Canada	*1.3676-1.3681*
Denmark	5.4435-5.4485
France	4.8885-4.8930
Germany	1.3808-1.3813
Hong Kong	7.7322-7.7332
Ireland	*1.6295-1.6305*
Italy	1726.75-1726.82
Japan	83.16-83.21
Malaysia	2.4685-2.4695
Netherlands	1.5465-1.5470
Norway	6.2230-6.2280
Portugal	146.15-146.25
Singapore	1.3944-1.3954
Spain	123.80-124.05
Sweden	7.4229-7.4329
Switzerland	1.1410-1.1420

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6043-1.6070
Australia dollar	2.1899-2.1921
Bahrain dinar	0.5995-0.6115
Brazil real*	1.4679-1.4721
China yuan	*13.15 Buy*
Cyprus pound	0.7035-0.7135
Finland markka	6.865-6.981
Greece drachma	360.50-367.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.4079-12.4172
India rupee	50.02-50.98
Indonesia rupiah	3547.00-3615.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.463-0.473
Malaysia ringgit	*3.9641-3.9669*
New Zealand dollar	2.3865-2.3890
Pakistan rupee	49.59 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.965-6.091
Singapore dollar	2.2378-2.2401
S Africa rand (com)	*5.8048-5.8110*
U A E dirham	5.840-5.964

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FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	862	Legal & Gn	931
ASDA Gp	6,900	Lloyds Bk	2,800
Abbey Natl	*2,100*	MEPC	408
Alld Dom	1,300	Marks Spr	2,400
Argyll Gp	5,400	NatWst Bk	1,900
Arjo Wiggn	1,500	Nat Power	1,400
AB Foods	194	Nth Wst W	743
BAA	*1,800*	*P & O*	*1,500*
BAT Inds	6,900	Pearson	1,300
BOC	1,200	PowerGen	354
BP	8,500	Prudential	3,700
BTR	9,200	RMC	286
BT	7,600	RTZ	3,500
Bk of Scot	980	Rank Org	2,400
Barclays	2,200	Reckitt Col	484
Bass	1,400	Redland	1,400
Blue Circle	1,400	Reed Intl	596
Boots	1,400	Rentokil	2,800
Bowater	622	Reuters	2,800
Brit Aero	*1,600*	*Rolls Royce*	*8,500*
Brit Airwys	2,600	Ryl Ins	4,000
Brit Gas	8,000	Ryl Bk Scot	2,500
Brit Steel	8,400	Sainsbury	1,500
Burmah Cstl	386	Schroders	79
Cable Wire	*6,200*	*Scot & New*	*827*
Cadbury	1,400	Scot Power	3,400
Caradon	3,000	Sears	3,000
Carlton Cms	541	Svrn Trent	523
Cm Union	1,500	Shell Trans	6,200
Courtaulds	938	*Siebe*	*765*
De La Rue	739	SmKl Bch	7,300
Eastern Elec	*558*	*Smith Nph*	*3,000*
Enterpr Oil	5,900	Sthern Elec	732
Forte	9,800	Std Chartd	2,600
GKN	704	Sun Allnce	2,300
GRE	2,900	TI Gp	770
GUS	*1,200*	*TSB*	*2,100*
Gen Acc	3,000	Tate & Lyle	680
Gen Elec	5,700	Tesco	4,400
Glaxo	5,600	Thames W	394
Granada	759	Thrn EMI	199
Grand Met	4,400	Tomkins	5,100
Guinness	2,600	Unilever	1,400
HSBC	2,200	Utd Bisc	656
Hanson	8,500	Vodafone	8,400
ICI	2,700	Warburg	641
Inchcape	2,700	Whitbread	1,600
Kingfisher	1,900	Wlms Hld	1,800
Ladbroke	7,300	Wolseley	2,100
Land Secs	978	Zeneca	1,800

	Apr 21 midday	Apr 20 close		Apr 21 midday	Apr 20 close		Apr 21 midday	Apr 20 close
AMP Inc	38¾	38	*Enron Corp*	33¼	33¼	PPG Industries	38¾	38¾
AMR Corp	63½	64	Entergy	21¼	21¼	PNC Bank	25¼	25
AT & T	49¼	49½	Ethyl Corp	10½	10½	Paccar Inc	43¾	43½
Abbott Labs	37¾	37	Exxon	69⅞	69⅛	Pacificorp	19¼	19
Advanced Micro	33½	33¾	FMC Corp	59¼	59½	Pac Enterprises	25	24¾
Aetna Life	56	54½	FPL Group	37½	37¼	Pac Gas & Elec	26½	26¾
Ahmanson (HF)	20¼	19¾	Federal Express	67¼	67½	Pac Telesis	30¼	30
Air Prod & Chem	50½	50¾	Fed Nat Mtge	85¾	85½	Pall Corp	22	22¼
Albertson's	31½	31½	First Chicago	53¼	53½	Panhandle East	23¾	24
Alcan Aluminum	27¼	27	First Interstate	75¼	75¼	Parker Hannifin	52½	52¼
Alco Standard	71¼	71	First Union Rty	7½	7½	Peco Energy	25¼	25¾
Allied Signal	39¼	39¼	Fleet Finl Grp	32⅝	32½	Penney (JC)	43¾	43¾
Alum Co of Am	43¾	43½	Fluor Corp	48½	48			

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Big jump at Reed Executive

BAT change

BS advances

Elys ahead

TOURIST RATES

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Behind the Mirror
With the share price of Mirror Group in the doldrums the City is asking whether David Montgomery's strategy matches either his ability or his resources
Business – The Sunday Times tomorrow

هدية من الأهرام

A backdoor break-up of British Gas?

MELVYN
MARCKUS

Earlier this week *The Times* highlighted United Gas's passionate support for Conservative MP Alan Duncan's proposed amendment to the Gas Bill aimed at forcing British Gas to convert TransCo, its pipeline and storage operation, into a legally distinct subsidiary.

United Gas, led by Peter Bryant, vice-chairman, and Roger Turner, managing director, apparently sees this as a necessary exercise in transparency. As our article pointed out, the affairs of United Gas are not necessarily perceived as a model of *glasnost*.

The pivotal company in the complex ownership of United Gas is Utilicorp UK Inc, a Delaware-registered enterprise, which, via two subsidiaries, controls 100 per cent of United Gas. Utilicorp United, a Kansas-based corporation, controls 75 per cent of Utilicorp UK Inc, the other 25 per cent being held by Norland Gas Marketing. As of last October, Norland Gas Marketing was controlled by five directors, four of whom, Bryant, Turner, Mark Conway and Sir Ian MacGregor, former head of the National Coal Board, also grace the board of United Gas.

Last year *The Times* disclosed that directors of Norland Gas Marketing had formed ten companies — based in a terraced house in Hestercombe Avenue, southwest London — to take advantage of the UK's gas release programme, designed to encourage new competitors into the industrial gas market. Hestercombe Avenue entities such as Dogstar, Encurium and Zealtry applied for release gas, in spite of the fact that United Gas had made its own application, as had six associate enterprises (owned in conjunction with half a dozen regional electricity companies) such as Northern Gas, Southern Gas and Western Gas.

No applicant was permitted more than one application, but the Hestercombe venture took advantage of the fact that the letter, if not the spirit, of the regulations could be complied with if ownership of further companies was kept below 50 per cent.

What might have been of interest, to an inquisitive soul such as myself, was how much money was made or lost on this venture? Each Hestercombe enterprise received 1.43 million therms of gas, making a total of 14.3 million therms. Dogstar and its sister companies were not renowned for their activity in the end-user market, so who did they sell to? For each 1p gain or loss, Bryant and his colleagues stood to gain or lose £143,000 overall.

Such answers might have been in the public domain by now had not the "Hestercombe Ten" changed their year ends from March 1994 to end-December 1993. The companies are reported not to have traded during the nine months to December 31, 1993. In the event, the 1994 accounts do not have to be filed until November 1995. The annual returns, which would disclose any changes in ownership, were due on April 5 and have still not been filed.

Quite why Norland Gas Marketing's former direct 25 per cent stake in United Gas is now held through a similar interest in Delaware-registered Utilicorp UK Inc is not something that shines through United Gas's peculiar brand of transparency.

Such matters were noted in Westminster, not least by the Standing Committee debating the Gas Bill in general and, last Thursday, the subject of fit and proper applicants in particular. Modesty does not prevent me from quoting Martin O'Neill, Labour MP for Clackmannan. "*The Times* showed the complex — almost Byzantine — character of the activities of Utilicorp and United Gas in which several companies are concerned ... Transparency is being pursued and one could wish that those seeking it would organise comparable transparency in their own arrangements, so that Mr Melvyn Marckus's investigative skills were not required to establish clarity." Judith Church, Labour MP for Dagenham, went further, saying: "Overall, United Gas seems happy to ignore the legislation, to hide information from the public and to preach 'pay virtue' in public while enjoying fat-cat practice in private. Does the Minister ... think that these are fit and proper persons who can be trusted by the public to supply their gas?"

What the Standing Committee should dwell on is that those calling for a "legally distinct subsidiary" are clearly in sympathy with those involved in the long-running plot to force British Gas to divest itself (contrary to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's recommendations) of some 90 per cent of its UK asset base.

The most avid proponents of such action are the husband-and-wife team of Colin Robinson ("Blue Robbo"), Professor of Economics at Surrey University, and Eileen Marshall, who, early last year, moved from Offer (where she created meter chaos) to become No 2 at Ofgas shortly after Clare Spottiswoode took over as Director-General.

In February, Ms Spottiswoode's view — in a paper published by Ofgas — was as follows. "Although the MMC's recommendation for divestment [surely of trading, not transportation?] was rejected by the Secretary of State, the Director-General continued to discuss the matter with British Gas with a view to placing TransCo rather than the trading businesses in a separate subsidiary. It became clear, however, that creating a subsidiary would be a major task, and if it were to be achieved in response to the MMC's recommendations [never made] it would be likely to clash with the introduction of competition in the domestic sector."

Ofgas has not made clear its views on the Alan Duncan amendment. Perhaps Dr Marshall might care to divulge whether divestment of transportation and storage is still on her agenda? Does she agree with Ms Spottiswoode that "separation" should not coincide with domestic competition? Surely the Standing Committee would like to know precisely where Ofgas's No 1 and No 2 stand on this issue. Is a backdoor break-up of British Gas being planned?

Big jump at Reed Executive

Reed Executive, the recruitment agency, saw pre-tax profits surge to £6.4 million (£665,000) in the year to January 1. Turnover climbed to £115 million (£89.8 million).

Exceptional items of £524,000 depressed the previous set of results. Earnings per share were 7.6p (0.2p). An unchanged final dividend of 1p a share makes a total of 2p a share for the year (1p). Alec Reed, chairman, said permanent recruitment business was running at about 60 per cent of pre-recession levels.

Tempus, page 24

BAT change

Tommy Sandefur is retiring on medical grounds as chairman and chief executive of Brown & Williamson, BAT Industries' US tobacco subsidiary. His successor, Nick Brookes, is currently in charge of new business development for the group, having previously been chairman and chief executive of BAT (UK & Export), the company responsible for cigarette exports from the UK.

BS advances

BS Group, the Bristol greyhound racing and property company, made a pre-tax profit of £761,000 (£246,000 loss) in the year to December 31, helped by gains on restaurant and property disposals. Earnings per share were 12.75p (loss: 3.81p). A final dividend of 1.5p a share makes a total of 4.5p a share (nil) for the year.

Elys ahead

Elys (Wimbledon), the department store in southwest London, made a pre-tax profit of £409,000 (£336,000) in the year to January 31. Earnings per share were 22.1p (19.4p). A final dividend of 16p (15.5p) a share makes a total of 18p (17p) for the year.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.29	2.12
Austria Sch	16.72	15.22
Belgium Fr	48.95	44.65
Canada $	2.308	2.146
Cyprus Cyp£	0.752	0.697
Denmark Kr	9.40	8.60
Finland Mkk	7.58	6.88
France Fr	8.33	7.88
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	381.00	356.00
Hong Kong $	13.06	12.06
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.2902	4.5302
Italy Lira	2885.00	2730.00
Japan Yen	149.00	133.00
Malta	0.602	0.547
Netherlds Gld	2.654	2.424
Norway Kr	10.63	9.83
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	n/a	5.39
Spain Pta	206.50	193.50
Sweden Kr	12.58	11.76
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	n/a	66608.0
USA $	1.704	1.574

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Behind the Mirror

❛With the share price of Mirror Group in the doldrums the City is asking whether David Montgomery's strategy matches either his ability or his resources ...❜

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Ryanair attacks EU over subsidy for Aer Lingus

By Our Business Staff

A NEW dispute over state subsidies to European national airlines broke out yesterday, raising doubts over the commitment of Brussels to establishing a free market and deregulating air travel in Europe.

An Irish independent airline yesterday launched a bitter attack against the European Union for allowing the payment of further state aid to Aer Lingus, even though it is claimed that the Irish national airline has not met the conditions originally attached by Brussels to the aid package.

Ryanair, the independent Irish airline founded ten years ago by Tony Ryan, the GPA chief, and his two sons, yesterday said that it "objects vigorously to the European Commission derogating from its own decision of December 21, 1993".

Brussels this week decided to go back on an earlier decision and authorise the Irish Government to pay a second tranche of support, worth Ir£50 million, to Aer Lingus.

Ryanair said that it had been profitable in the past four years in spite of having to compete with a state airline that receives in aid almost as much as Ryanair's turnover. Ryanair also claims to have accounted for more than 95 per cent of the growth in air traffic between the Irish Republic and the UK from 1991 to 1994.

Ryanair says that Aer Lingus will receive during 1995 Ir£25 for every return passenger carried. "This subsidy is unjustified," it said.

In 1993, the European Commission authorised the Irish Government to inject I£175 million of equity into Aer Lingus. It was intended that it be injected in three stages and it was intended to allow a two-year restructuring proposal to go ahead. The plan envisaged cost reductions of Ir£50 million a year and involved the sale of non-core businesses.

However, the Commission said that the cost objectives had been achieved only by the airline, and not by the Aer Lingus business as a whole. The commissioners believe that failure to meet the targets was caused by factors that could not be predicted when the restructuring plan was made.

The commissioners cited as examples the continued losses of Team, the aircraft maintenance arm, higher than expected restructuring costs and postponement of the disposal of Copthorne, the airline's chain of hotels.

The Commission said that it "is of the opinion that the progress of the restructuring and the results already achieved are satisfactory, despite the fact that the objective of the annual cost reduction has only been achieved by the airline and not by the whole group".

Patrick Austen reported almost doubled profits for the retailing businesses

Liberty profits rise 28%

By Susan Gilchrist

A STRONG performance from the retail division helped Liberty boost profits 28 per cent last year.

The retail businesses virtually doubled profits. Trading at the flagship Regent Street store and the new Liberty outlet at Heathrow were especially strong.

Patrick Austen, chief executive, said the group plans to open three Liberty branches this year, bringing the total chain to 26. The new stores will concentrate on fashion accessories and gifts rather than fabrics and furnishings. Other smaller stores will be converted to the new format. The group also plans to open three Muji stores.

The solid performance from the retail side was partly offset by deepening losses at the textile division.

Group pre-tax profits rose to £4.1 million (£3.2 million) in the year to January 28. The bottom line benefited from a £547,000 exceptional gain. The final dividend stays at 5.35p, making an unchanged total of 7.20p.

Tempus, page 24

Northumbrian wins £250m deal

By Eric Reguly

NORTHUMBRIAN Water has won a £250 million, 25-year waste-disposal contract, one of the largest waste deals ever awarded in Britain, from Cleveland County Council after a three-year tender process.

A new company, Cleveland Waste Management, which is 80 per cent owned by Northumbrian and 20 per cent by the council, will build a £40 million waste-to-energy plant in Billingham, Cleveland. The plant will burn about two-thirds of the 310,000 tonnes a year of waste generated by the local population.

The council will pay CWM, whose chief executive is David Cranston, to dispose of the waste and it will receive income from the energy produced by the plant.

CWM has a 15-year contract to supply up to 20 megawatts of electricity, enough to light up a small town, to Northern Electric. About half of the £250 million will come from waste disposal activities; the other half from electricity sales.

Jonathan Garvey, head of business development for Northumbrian's environmental division, said: "There are no exceptional risks here. The revenue streams are virtually guaranteed and people keep producing waste."

The technology will be purchased from Volund Ecology Systems of Denmark, and the plant will be installed by Sir Robert McAlpine.

Construction will start in late July and the plant will be commissioned two years later.

Cranston: new company

Warning hits Scott Pickford

By Jon Ashworth

SHARES in Scott Pickford, the oil services group, lost a quarter of their value yesterday, when the company issued a profits warning and announced sweeping boardroom changes.

The company gave warning that pre-tax profits in the second half would fall below the £320,500 recorded in the first half of the year because of poor sales of geoscience reports and resulting provisions of £115,000. The shares fell 10p, to 30p.

Tony Burch is to split his combined role of chairman and chief executive. Michael Feilden, a non-executive director, takes over as acting chairman until a more permanent successor is found. Mr Burch remains chief executive. Tony Phipps has resigned as a director. Allan Manning and Andrew Shrager have been appointed non-executive directors. Mr Feilden said that a new board structure had been considered "appropriate".

The company's two divisions focus on petroleum and measuring equipment.

MPs want to remove pitfall from tenants

Leasehold peril is attacked

By Our Financial Staff

A BILL to save former leaseholders from remaining liable for the debts that subsequent tenants owe a landlord won backing from the House of Commons yesterday.

The legal situation has created problems for many years, but they became more acute during the 1990s recession. Expanding companies that had felt confident enough about their prospects to move to new and more suitable premises suddenly found themselves facing huge debts because the new tenants of their old premises had gone bust. Many small company directors had been unaware of the risks they faced from reassigning their leases until the landlord sent in the demand for payment and followed it up with legal action.

The Government gave its support to a redefining of the landlord/tenant relationship in commercial contracts through the *Landlord and Tenant (Covenants) Bill*. The Bill was introduced by Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton North-East.

The Bill gained its third reading without a vote and now goes to the Lords, where further changes are due to be made.

The Bill ends the "privity of contract" between a landlord and the original leaseholder whereby a landlord can hold former leaseholders responsible for the debts of a subsequent one.

Paul Boateng, for Labour, said that the Bill would end an injustice. "There will be generations of people who will benefit from this measure," he said.

John Taylor, Minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department, said that the strengthening of the tenant's position was being balanced by a greater say for landlords on the assignment of leases from one tenant to another.

He said: "One has to say that in this case, with a certain note of sadness ... there have been people, particularly during a period of recession and financial hardship, who have been hit very hard by the operation of the privity rule — some of them even losing their own homes."

Mr Thurnham said that further amendments would be introduced in the Lords.

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Shares end week on a high note

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BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	413	Abbey Natl	469	+ 7	4.7	10.1
395	350	Allied Irish	389		4.8	8.4
233	198	Aus New Z	231	− 2	4.9	8.4
3156¾	2631¼	Bank America	3081¼	− 6¼	..	..
230	191½	Bank Scotland	219	− 4	3.0	12.3
665	557¼	Barclays	634	+ 5	4.1	8.9
335	288	Bk of Ireland	332		4.3	9.6
476	418	Cater Allen	476		7.4	9.8
2925	2450	Citicorp	2893¾			
262	219	Close Bros	261		3.8	11.8
£150¾	£139¼	Commerzbk	£144¼	+ 375	3.8	..
2275	997½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1253¾	+ 34¾	0.5	.
£317¼	£285	Deutsche Bk	£300¾	− 678¼	2.5	
856¼	612¼	Espirito Santo	762½	+ 3¼	10.6	•
1485	1192¾	Fuji Bank Y	1477¼	+ 51¾	0.5	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	423		7.1	12.2
253	186	Hambros	204	− 1	9.2	12.5
756½	589	HSBC	750	+ 5	4.5	9.4
740	578	HSBC Hkg	736½	+ 6½	4.6	9.3
402	350	Joseph (L)	363		6.1	10.6
103	85	King Shaxson	89		12.6	8.8
663	529	Kleinwort Bens	632	+ 4	4.2	11.3
641	530	Lloyds	621	+ 11	5.2	10.5
552	477	Nat Aust Bk	543	− 3	6.2	9.5
556	454	Nat West	542	+ 4	5.0	9.1
2400	2150	Ottoman Bank	2375		6.7	3.3
57	53	Rea Bros	53		2.4	•
439	373½	Royal Bk Scot	414	+ 1	4.2	11.9
1635	1360	Schroders	1623	+ 3	1.6	15.4
1445	1235	Schroders N/V	1438	+ 3	1.8	13.7
86½	81	Singer & Fried	82		5.3	•
394	295	Stand Chart	363	+ 5	3.3	9.1
254¾	217	TSB	243	+ 5	4.6	10.4
93	70	Ulster	84	+ 3	4.5	•
784	655	Warburg SG	743	− 6	3.7	13.6
£107¾	994¾	Wells Fargo	£102¾	− 75	2.8	
237¾	211	Westpac	226	− 3¼	2.4	•
255	252	Wintrust	255		6.5	13.7

BREWERIES

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
105	91	AH Lab	98	+ 2	5.2	11.3
595	535	Adam & Harvey	550		3.5	6.9
21	16	Alexanders	20		6.2	9.6
113	88	Appleyard	107		6.8	•
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3¼		1.7	26.8
565	518	BSS Group	565		4.1	19.6
24½	20½	Bearing Power	21		6.0	10.8
28	25	Bogod 'A'	25		3.5	10.5
363	345	Brammer	355		4.7	•
17	10½	Bridgend Gp	15		1.7	78.0
98	87	Brit Fittings	90		5.6	•
48	38	Brown & Tawse	40			
39	33	Burndene	34		1.1	•
270	215	Caffyns	245		5.9	40.2
88	66	Central Mtr	73		4.1	48.6
42	35	Cow (DC)	36		4.0	11.0
289	220	Cowie	261		4.4	11.2
143	125	Day Motors	138		6.3	•
598	563	Dewhurst	563		1.5	13.9
455	408	Diploma	455	+ 6	3.7	16.0
540	472	Electrocomps	538		2.4	22.0
173	153	Electron House	163		2.7	13.7
263	234	Ellis & Everard	245	+ 5	4.8	16.3
111	87	European Mtr	104		5.4	11.3
401	364	Evans Halshaw	378	+ 5	5.0	•
595	512	Farnell Elec	590	− 3	1.7	24.2
60	48	Fife Indmar	48		7.8	•
23½	15	Gardiner	23½	+ 1¼	4.3	10.8
24	16	Glenchewton	17			18.8
73	61	Gowrings	66		4.3	•
73	62	Hallam Hidges	69		1.8	13.2
172	148	Harris (Philip)	165		5.2	18.5
308	258	Henlys	308	+ 3	3.4	14.3
98	81	Holders Tech	94		3.0	•
110	88	ISA Intl	94		2.5	•
430	271	Inchcape	309	+ 2	6.1	12.0
58	53	Jacks (Wm)	58			13.4
167	142	Kwik-Fit	155	− 3	3.5	15.3
339	277	Lex Service	334	− 2	5.2	17.8
195	164	Lookers	168		5.5	9.3
15	14	Malaya Grp	14½		3.4	34.5
8¾	5¾	Middleton C	6		1.1	
435	330	Norbain	347	+ 5	0.8	15.5
92	78	Northamber	85	+ 1	1.3	36.1
152	152	PCT	152		6.1	14.7
253	225	Pendragon	243	− 5	4.2	14.1
161	123	Perry Gp	141		6.9	•
135	126	Quicks Group	132		5.2	•
171	160	REA	170	+ 1	4.4	35.2
3	2¼	Reece	3			

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WEEKEND MONEY

UNIT TRUSTS 33-36
A special report on how the funds have fared

Old-style banks held to account

As customer discontent with banks mounts, Abbey National is planning a revamp, **Liz Dolan** says

Are you one of the 20 per cent of current account holders who are dissatisfied with the way their accounts are administered? Would you be prepared to switch to another bank, if it made it worth your while?

Abbey National, which has plans to launch a major offensive on the current account market this summer, is fervently hoping that you are — and that you would.

Britain's fourth-largest high street bank commissioned the survey that came up with the one-in-five dissatisfaction rating earlier this year. It says it is making heavy use of the findings to create a new-look account, due to be launched within the next six weeks.

This will replace its two existing current accounts, one paying a flat interest rate, the other tiered. A credit card and a full 24-hour telephone banking network are planned later this year.

The most common complaints recorded by the survey, which was conducted by BRMB, the market research group, concerned unreasonable charges and pitifully small interest payments on credit balances.

The old saying that more married people are likely to divorce than change their bank account apparently still holds good. Almost three in four disgruntled customers had actively considered switching to another bank. More than half had made inquiries about alternatives, but very few had bothered actually to move. Inconvenience, general inertia and a "negative attitude towards traditional banking" were cited as the three main reasons.

It is not clear what the researchers meant by "traditional banking". But it is certainly true that disaffected customers who do move tend to be younger than the average account holder, and are increasingly attracted by novelty.

Take First Direct's mould-breaking telephone banking operation, which scored an instant success when it started five years ago. An off-the-wall advertising campaign, plus cheque books, cardholders and so on, in a black quite matt enough to suit the most dedicated style victim, sent a coded message to waverers that this was the place to be for the young and trendy.

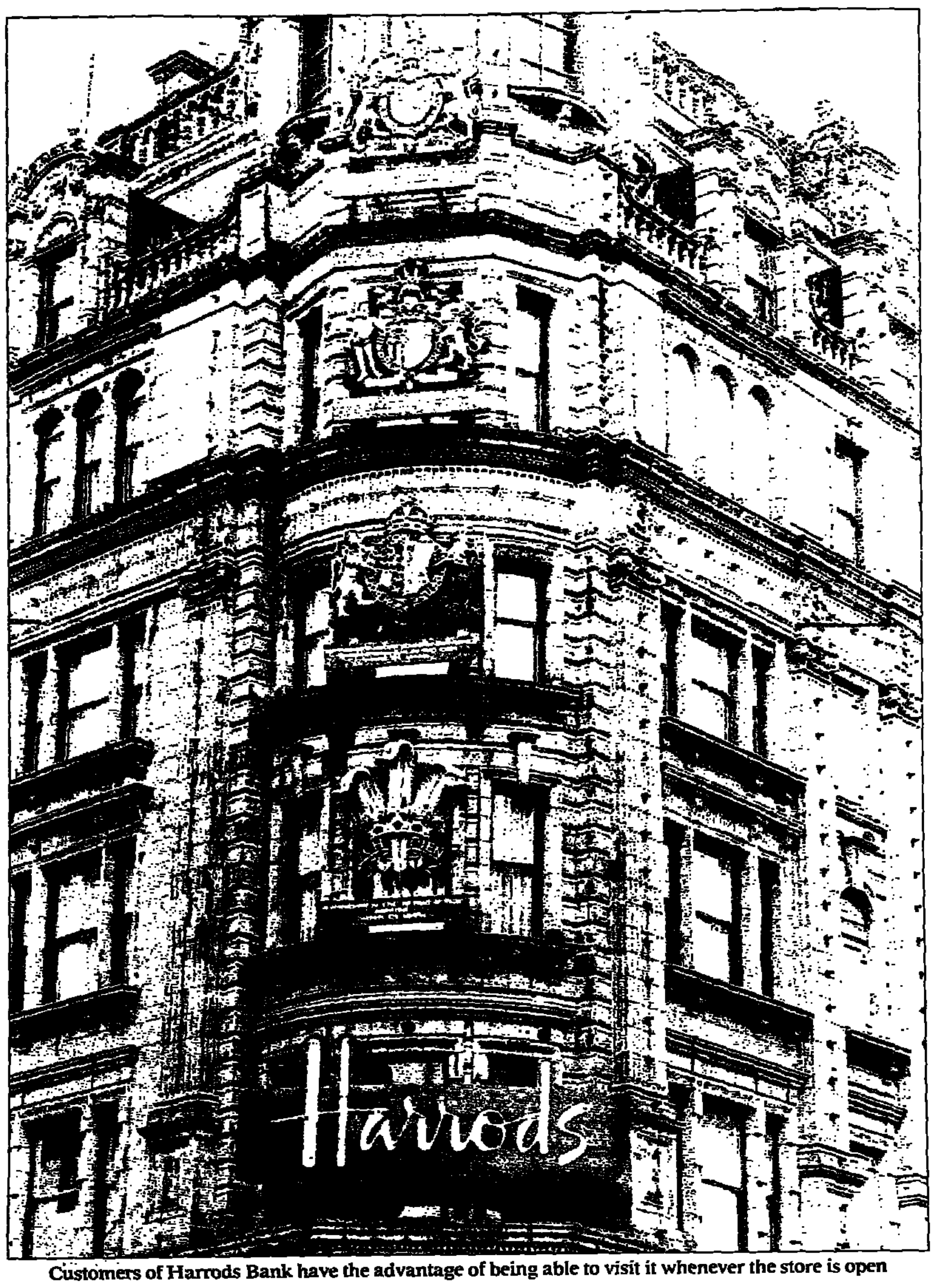
Since then, every self-respecting bank has followed suit with some kind of direct line service. The Royal Bank of Scotland's me-too service, for instance, which celebrated its first birthday on Tuesday of this week, has attracted more than 335,000 customers. But few have quite managed to match the style of the initiator.

The Co-operative Bank has pulled off what is arguably an even greater marketing coup after last year's successful revamp of its services. Although still a small player in the high street, with 3 per cent of the market, its new account-signings are running at twice the level of a year ago.

Its tired old image as banker to the down-at-heel and unfashionable is fading fast, thanks to its well publicised ethical-banking stance which, as well as appealing strongly to students and young radicals has, at the same time, apparently beefed up its attractions for wealthier, more mature customers.

"We're now well known as the ethical bank," the Co-op says. "We make it very clear who we will do business with, and who we won't. We don't get into a debate. We just say: this is what we stand for."

The Halifax launched its Maxim current account at the same time as First Direct came on the scene. Five years later, it has nearly one million customers, more and more of whom apparently have their salaries paid into their accounts, rather than simply using them as savings accounts with cheque books. A recent MORI survey found that 93 per cent of its current account holders were "very happy" with the service they received.



Customers of Harrods Bank have the advantage of being able to visit it whenever the store is open

Happiness is banking at Harrods

Harrods Bank is patting itself on the back this week. A recent survey has discovered that virtually every single member of its small, but select, band of customers is either "fairly" or "very" satisfied with the service they receive.

A cynic would protest that they deserve to be very satisfied indeed, given the hefty charges they are expected to cough up for the pleasure of banking with the top people's store.

Anyone who dares to allow their balance to slip below £1,000 for a single day has to pay a minimum monthly service charge of £10. No interest at all is paid on balances below £2,500. Above that amount, interest ranges from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, but the top rate is paid only on balances of £50,000 or above

The charges are pitched to attract the right type of customer, explains John Simmonds, general manager. "If we offered free banking to anyone in credit, we'd attract masses of customers and we'd no longer be able to offer a personal service."

Maintaining the minimum balance effectively costs about £30 to £40 a year in lost interest, he says. In return for this, customers get a high degree of personal service and the advantage of being able to visit the bank whenever the store is open, seven days a week in December. According to the survey, these were the two main reasons for choosing Harrods rather than a local high street bank.

Harrods account-holders tend to be older than the average bank customer, and have income of at least £25,000 a year. Most shop at the store, and many are second or third-generation customers.

The Harrods Card guarantees cheques up to £250 and may be used to withdraw cash from Visa and Delta dispensers worldwide. It is also a debit card.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Transfers with minimum hassle

A letter from the bank informs you that you are £3.50 overdrawn, even though your salary cheque is due to be paid in the next day. It is the final straw and you decide that now is the time to find a bank more worthy of your custom (Liz Dolan writes).

But then you remember the long list of direct debits and standing orders attached to your account, and the equally long list of companies that will have to be alerted to your new payment arrangements.

You also remember what a hassle it was when your debit/cash/cheque card was stolen and you had to carry around great piles of cash until its replacement arrived. You decide it is not worth the effort, pour a stiff drink and make peace with your existing bank.

Nowadays most banks try to make the switching process as easy as possible by, for example, offering "transfer packs". But their efforts to publicise this fact seem to have been less than successful.

Only two in five people interviewed in an Abbey National survey expected rival banks to make any effort at all to help them to transfer. The more dissatisfied those questioned were with their existing bank, the less faith they appeared to have in the ability of a new one to smoothe out the hassles.

In an effort to allay people's concern about problems when moving banks, some offer to pay for their mistakes.

The Midland Bank has touted for business more actively than most by publicising widely its offer to pay £10 per delay, or mistake, to new customers and people switching from competitors. The bank says: "We ask for three signatures and that's it. We transfer all the direct debits and standing orders for you and we promise to supply you with a cheque book, PIN and cheque card within five to seven days." Since launching its £10 self-fining policy in July, the bank has paid out £30,000. The offer operates only during the first month of the new account, however.

The Co-op points out that while it also pays £10 per mistake, it does so throughout the life of the account. On switching, it says: "There's this big inertia thing, but it's not that difficult to transfer. You simply fill in a form and we approach your existing current account holder."

At Lloyds, new customers are allocated a member of staff who is responsible for everything from answering queries to arranging for the delivery of new cheque books and cards and the transfer of standard orders.

New customers are also supplied with pre-written letters to ease the transfer process and telephoned after ten days and six months to see if they have problems. "We also ask them if they want to change anything at the six months stage," it says.

Barclays offers the following tips:

■ Draw up a list of all standing orders and direct debits

■ On your first visit to your new bank, take bank and credit card statements going back six months, your last two pay slips, and identification, such as a driving licence, that shows your address.

■ Do not close your old account before opening a new one. Allow time for uncleared cheques to go through the system.

■ Inform all companies involved that there may be a slight delay in payment because of the transfer.

If you can keep your head. . .

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

ANTHONY HARRIS

Did you have a queasy Wednesday? If you paid attention to the news, you probably did. The dollar and sterling were touching record lows; pundit after pundit made grim remarks, usually including the words "putting their house in order". At worst, we were facing a full-blown currency crisis; at the very least, interest rates would have to rise again, in spite of the now obvious slowdown. Either way, investment looked much riskier; prices duly fell. But on Thursday, it all went away, and a price recovery set in. Thank goodness you didn't panic.

And the moral of that is not, as you might think, that you should pay no attention to the news; it is that you should never listen to pundits. The alert investor should not have found Wednesday's instalment unduly exciting. The dollar, after all, has been falling throughout 1995, regularly breaking records all the way down. So Wednesday was just another bad day. Indeed, in a deeper sense, the crisis is a quarter of a century old: it started when Nixon went off gold in 1971.

So we have been watching a major adjustment; Wednesday was just another bad day. The question is not whether the dollar is undervalued (it has been for several years), but when the adjustment is likely to be complete. Or rather, when the overshoot will have spent its force. As any experienced investor knows, such major trends always go too far; that is the nature of speculative markets. One day a recovery such as we have seen this week will surprise everyone by gathering force rather than petering out; but the bounce, like the fall, will be overdone.

One possibly hopeful sign is that the Swedes have joined the central bank panic, which is the real cause of the current crisis, and started switching their reserves out of dollars. The Swedes are becoming notorious for their bad timing, and you should never overlook the value of such negative indicators.

All the same, my own guess is that we have not yet reached the turning point. But that is only a guess; and so are all the supposedly better-informed forecasts you hear from pundits. When a really smart speculator like George Soros can lose the thick end of a billion dollars backing the dollar much too early, the rest of us should be humble. Pundits, however, are not paid to be humble. A dealer who told an interviewer "I really haven't the foggiest idea" could be sure that he would not be bothered again. What news editors want is a clear pointer, preferably to the imminent end of the world.

The trouble is that those willing to oblige let all the attention they enjoy go to their heads; hence their ill-informed and impertinent lectures to governments on what they should do. What they ignore is the fact that the trouble is not with policy, but with the system. Any system in which national reserves are held mainly in the currency of one country will face a major crisis every generation or so. For a period, it is a privilege to be the reserve provider: the role confers almost indefinite borrowing power.

But in the end, it is a poisoned chalice; it makes a country fat and lazy. America has not chosen to be a country in eternal deficit: the deficit, and the over-valuation that caused it, have been forced on it by the demand for dollars from other countries. That is why Germany and Japan have been so reluctant to take on a role that has been on offer for more than 20 years. The devaluation that will make it possible for the US to become a surplus country has taken only months; but the structural change will take a generation. But in the continuing crisis, hang on to this thought: equities are a stake in real value and, in the long run, shrug off exchange-rate turmoil.

Only bond holders need worry: leave bonds to the risk-takers.

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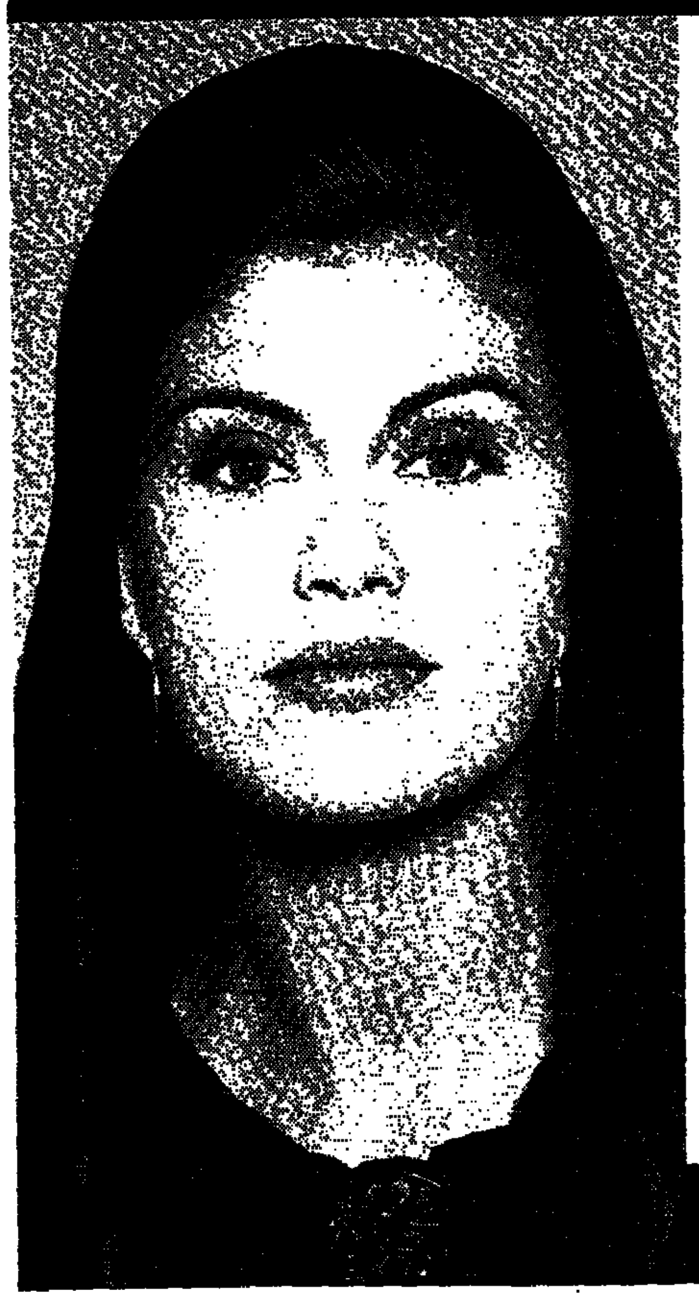

Sara McConnell finds life assurance and pensions on sale not far from the food hall

M&S offers policy of simplicity

Life assurance salesmen have never been so unpopular — at least with customers of Marks & Spencer. M&S is to branch out into *selling life and pensions policies in* two weeks' time but customer research gave a decisive thumbs down to the company's original plans to recruit a salaried salesforce.

Customers, many drawn from M&S's 4.5 million store card account holders, told researchers they wanted *simple policies* which *they* could understand on their own. Fear of being pressurised by a hard-sell life assurance salesmen by *the shelves* in the food hall ran deep.

So from May 10, brochures for M&S's five new life assurance and pension policies will appear in all 285 UK stores. If you already have a store card, loan or investment with M&S Financial Services, you may find a mailshot for policies from M&S Life Assurance included with your next statement or communication. There will also be a freephone number for "technical queries". But M&S is adamant that its staff cannot at the *moment cross the thin dividing* line between giving factual help (on charges for example) and advice.

M&S believes it has made its plans so simple that customers will not need help. But pressed on the issue that life *assurance and pensions* were *more* complex than credit cards or even unit trusts, David Towell, the chief executive *of the new company, conceded it* might have to recruit a team of advisers later. The advisers would be based at *M&S Financial Services' headquarters* in Chester, not in stores. Customers with pensions are perhaps the most *likely to need advice, especially when* they near retirement. As the company is targeting its pensions at those *between 30 and 55, some customers* may need advice in five years' time.

With no salesmen to pay, at least at the outset, M&S life and pension plans should be cheaper than those of their competitors who make deductions for salesmen's commission. Robert Colvill, managing director of M&S Financial Services, also emphasised that the *simpler policies were, the* cheaper *this* would make them.

It is certainly true that customers will benefit by having *all their* contributions or premiums invested in a savings plan or pension from the outset. Many of M&S's rivals take some or all of each contribution to pay set-up costs, including commission, for up to the first two years of the policy. But M&S levies other charges that are not startlingly lower than many of their competitors, according to Nigel O'Sullivan of Bacon & Woodrow, the actuary. Both the savings plan and the two pension plans are unit-linked, so contributions are invested in units linked to the stock market. There is an initial charge of 5 per cent deducted from each contribution which includes the cost of buying units and an administration charge. (Most companies charge between 5 per cent and 6 per cent.) On top of this, there is an annual management charge of 0.75 per cent taken *from the performance* of your investment. (Most companies charge between 0.75 per cent and 1.5 per cent.) *M&S* also charges a monthly fixed policy fee of £1.20 if you are making regular contributions. Such fixed fees weigh heaviest on those investing small amounts. Many companies have got rid of them altogether.

First, Linda Evangelista models its styles. Now, M&S goes into pensions

WHAT M&S OFFERS

- **Family Protection Plan:** A term as*surance policy* which pays out if you die during a set term of up to 25 years. The minimum contribution is £7. Both premiums *and payouts* are *indexed*. You get nothing back if you do not die during the term.
- **Serious illness plan:** A critical illness policy which pays out a lump sum on diagnosis of a serious illness including cancer, heart disease or stroke. The minimum contribution is £10 and you can pay for five, 10, 15 or 20 years. Your dependants get nothing if you die.
- **Savings and protection plan:** A ten-year savings plan extendable to 20 years. Contributions will be invested in a new fund, the UK Balanced Equity Fund, manged by BZW. You will get a guaranteed sum or the value of the fund if greater if you die or are diagnosed with a serious illness.
- **Personal pension:** Contributions will be invested in one of three funds, the International Managed fund (managed by a range of outside fund *managers*), *the UK Balanced fund* and the Fixed Interest Pension fund (for when you are five years or fewer from *retirement) managed by Phillips &* Drew.
- **Freestanding AVC:** A top-up plan for members of company pension schemes structured like the personal pension.

Fund managers tune in to Luxembourg

TRUST WATCH

In the past decade, Luxembourg has moved from being the Duchy better known for its radio station to a major offshore base for fund *managers*. With about £100 billion of money invested through Luxembourg-registered funds, it can rival the UK's unit trust industry, which has been going since 1932.

A *number of top British* fund management houses, including Commercial Union, *Fidelity*, Henderson, *Hypo* Foreign & Colonial and Kleinwort Benson have Luxembourg offices. Another group, Invesco, is to add a seventeenth fund to its Premier Selection umbrella fund *on May 1*.

Luxembourg is a "recognised" territory by Britain's *chief regulator, the Securities* and Investments Board. But funds registered there must apply for separate permission to market themselves direct to investors in the UK. Using the Duchy as a springboard to launch funds means it is easier to promote them to a wider investment audience. Alan Wren, managing director of Invesco, says the new Asian Convertible bond fund will be promoted in 37 countries.

The new Invesco fund, *which has a minimum* investment of $1,000, or $100 a month, has a gross target yield of 6.75 per cent, with "the prospect of significant capital growth" from a portfolio of Euro-convertible bonds issued by companies in the region, excluding Japan. Favoured sectors will include property, infrastructure, energy, and electronics in countries such as India, China and Korea.

The Invesco fund will offer a choice of distribution or roll-up units so that UK investors can decide when to repatriate their money. If they are higher *rate taxpayers nearing* retirement, the money can be left to roll-up until they retire and move to a *lower tax band*.

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Confessing their sins in public

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The news that companies that break the rules of the PIA watchdog body may be forced to display their sins in full-page newspaper advertisements is the second blow struck this week for investors' rights.

For too long, financial services businesses have been able to conceal the exact nature of their trangressions, while at the same time swearing that any shortcoming has long since been put right.

The smile produced by the thought of life insurers and the like facing such public embarrassment is made even wider by the week's first sally in the investor rights struggle. In a development that is a victory for a campaign by *The Times*, the 20,000 investors of Knight Williams, the advisory business, can now contemplate the future with a greater measure of security, after the deal with Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank.

The group's purchase of Knight Williams's asset management division follows months of evasion by the firm's directors and prevarication by the various watchdog bodies involved in the case.

Without the insistence of the press and the assiduous efforts of the Knight Williams action group, one suspects that they might still be deliberating, while elderly investors stood by, unable to mend their fortunes, or influence their fates.

When the chief watchdog, the Securities and Investments Board, was finally forced to become involved, investors' patience was already close to exhausted and their capital diminished. Their faith in the investor protection system was already shaken: Knight Williams, a supposedly independent adviser, had, in many cases, placed all their cash in its own bonds and trusts, rather than distributing the money among various suitable homes.

The whole messy affair highlights various deficiencies within the regulatory system that the bosses of these bodies should see as a cautionary tale.

The only disappointment is that we did not see, displayed in broadsheet, the details of the £50,000 fine imposed last year on Knight Williams. Or the fine print of the ten rule breaches.

Credit goes PC

ONCE upon a time, credit cards had no pretensions to social responsibility. The flexible friend was designed to make spending as effortless as possible and take the "waiting out of wanting". But, for hundreds of thousands, the relationship with their little plastic pal turned sour as they saw their debts rise and felt the pain that an APR in the high twenties can bring. They are now part of a sizeable group that looks askance at card companies and deeply disapproves of all their works.

Dismayed by this disaffection, two of the industry's giants, American Express and Barclaycard, have decided that politically correct cards are the answer.

These new cards claim to be about as innocuous as a library ticket and equally worthy. For example, Sense is the name given to the latest member of the Barclaycard clan. A decade ago, no self-respecting card would have such a label displayed across its chest. Closer examination, however, reveals the cards are not as harmless as they would like to appear. Sense is aimed at a more downmarket type of customer, presumed to be less creditworthy and thus forced to pay a higher rate of interest. In spite of spending restrictions, the rate is still 21.6 per cent, about 6 per cent higher than cards targeted at the more favoured type of customer.

For the first fee-free year, provided they spend more than £1,000, holders of the new American Express card will enjoy a rate of 16.7 per cent. But, thereafter, the rate climbs to 20.3 per cent, or 24.5 per cent for low spenders.

Hunt is on for victims of pension mis-selling

Robert Miller

on the PIA's guidelines for compensating investors

Colette Bowe wants a quick response to requests for reviews

The task of identifying and compensating hundreds of thousands of investors who may have been mis-sold personal pensions began in earnest this week when the watchdog responsible for policing life companies published formal guidelines on how the review is to be conducted.

For investors who are worried, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the regulator for firms that sell investments direct to the public, has set up a helpline.

The process will begin when pension companies send out a "Review of Personal Pensions" letter, with a questionnaire and a pre-paid envelope. The letter states: "Some people may have been badly advised to leave or not join an employer's pension scheme, and to take out a personal pension plan instead. Where that advice did not meet the relevant standards and has resulted in loss to the customer, compensation may be due."

The letter also points out that individual cases, where there appears to be a problem and which need further investigation, can only be expedited if the questionnaires are completed. It adds: "This is important for you even if you have now stopped your personal pension plan or you feel you received good advice."

There are priority cases, estimated to number 350,000, that the PIA says must be automatically reviewed by the end of next year. In addition, a further million personal pension plan holders may request a similar review.

The PIA has told pension providers that they must, by the end of this year, have reviewed certain case categories deemed urgent or extremely urgent. There is a rolling timetable, which the PIA insists must be adhered to.

■ By the end of 1995: Those who have retired or died and people aged 35 or more at the time of the transaction and who are still in the same employment.

■ By mid-1996: Those who opted out of the company or occupational pension scheme when they were under 35 and who are still in the same job and contributing to a personal pension plan.

■ By the end of 1996: Those who opted out when they were 35 or more, but are no longer with the same employer.

The PIA emphasises that these are only broad headings. Colette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, made clear this week that any personal pension plan holders who feel that they may have been wrongly advised to opt out of a company pension scheme or not join in the first place, may ask for a review. She is equally firm that companies requested to review a particular case should do so speedily, explaining at each stage of the process the rights of individuals to challenge a particular decision.

The specially established PIA Pensions Unit will monitor members taking part in the review process on a regular basis.

The most complex and controversial element of the personal pension review is inevitably compensation.

Where investors have been given bad advice, the PIA ideally wants them restored to their former pension scheme with no loss of benefits. If this proves to be very expensive, or impossible, the company may offer a suitable top-up payment to the investor's personal pension plan. However, each decision will have to be justified individually to the regulator.

PIA Investor Helpline: 0171-417 7001

MPs focus on widows' plight

Lennox: fears loss of security

The controversial topic of how to split pension assets on divorce is likely to dominate the Commons debate on the Pensions Bill, which begins on Monday.

Ministers are expected to come under further pressure to order that pensions be split on divorce, rather than at retirement, as required by an amendment to the Bill made by peers during its passage through the Lords.

However, leading pensions lawyers predict that the Government may try to argue that in Australia, Germany and The Netherlands, three countries which have, to date, confronted the problem of providing a pension for a middle-aged wife who has not pursued her own career, the answer is to give her a share of her husband's fund when he retires.

In spite of a number of concessions that are likely to be made to war widows, restoring their pensions if their second marriages end, there will be special lobbying for younger war widows who receive their pensions from the Ministry of Defence, not the Department of Social Security. These widows are not covered by the proposed concessions.

The Officers Pensions Society, which represents the interests of these women, argues that their pensions should be paid to them for life, regardless of whether they remarry.

At present, the rules mean that widows such as Anne Lennox, the 38-year-old widow of Squadron Leader Garry Lennox, a Tornado pilot who was killed in the Gulf War, have a strong disincentive not to remarry. Mrs Lennox, who has two small children, explains that she fears the loss of the financial security the pension brings.

There is also some concern about the failure of the Bill to address the subject of training for pension scheme trustees. Douglas French, the Conservative MP for Gloucester, may raise this in the debate on Monday.

Meanwhile, another piece of current legislation has come under criticism from a leading accountant, Maurice Parry-Wingfield, tax partner with Touche Ross, who maintains that the Government is creating a dangerous precedent by introducing a large amount of important new legislation in the Finance Bill at the last moment without allowing time for proper scrutiny.

The Bill, which appeared in its final form this week, has acquired 19 new clauses since the Budget. Ten of them, plus 70 other changes, appeared after standing committee sessions had finished and could not possibly have been examined properly.

ANNE ASHWORTH

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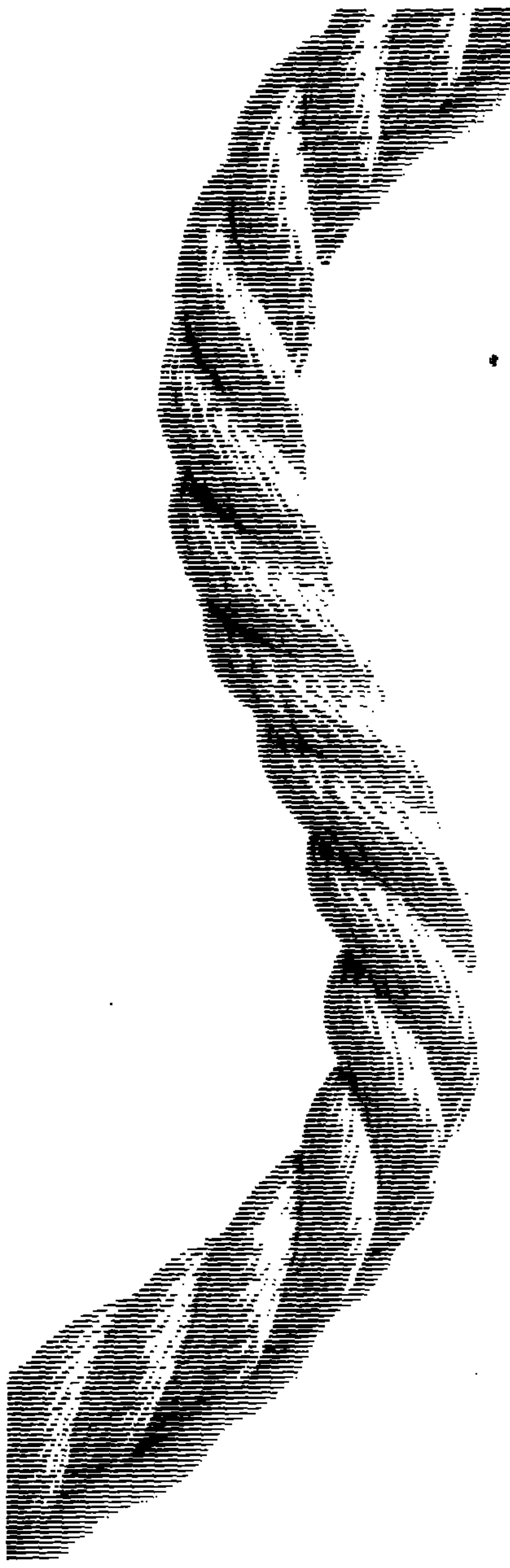

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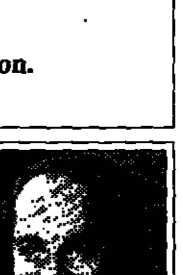

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Cards offer credit without tears

Two new credit cards sport safety measures for those who rate plastic a peril, reports

Morag Preston

If fear of credit or the woes of acquaintances who have fallen into debt mean that you do not yet have a flexible friend, a major credit card company would like to meet you.

To their delight, the credit card companies have discovered that there is space in 14.5 million wallets for a credit card. About 40 per cent of Britons have credit cards, as against 75 per cent of Americans. However, the *card companies have also realised that* one size will not fit all.

A new generation that is sceptical about the power of plastic and needs persuading that credit need not be harmful requires a special sort of credit card. To try to appeal to the hearts and pockets of this group, mainly composed of the young and spread *throughout the social classes.* American Express and Barclaycard have both launched new cards this week.

The new American Express card, aimed at the "financially responsible", is free in the first year, with an annual fee of £20 thereafter. Its annual percentage rate (APR) is 16.7 per cent, provided the holder spends at least *£1,000 a year. If they do not, the rate is* 20.9 per cent. After the first year, the fee is £20, against a market average of £10 to £12. American Express's offering is backed by a £6 million television and press advertising campaign.

The Barclaycard no-frills Sense card is targeted at an estimated 7 million people who demand strict financial *controls to stop them overspending* and who have been wary of traditional credit cards. It offers fixed lower credit limits, with strict repayment terms. Cash withdrawals are limited.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Charlotte Baker uses one of the new credit cards for the cautious young

Shaun Powell, commercial director at Barclaycard, says: "Those we have identified as a target market for Barclaycard Sense may not enter the credit card market at all unless their *demands* are met."

Barclaycard Sense requires a higher *than average minimum monthly* repayment of 10 per cent, encouraging cardholders to pay back more of their spending. It offers a reduced credit limit of between £300 and £500, to be decided by the customer, compared with the Barclaycard average of £1,500. Cash withdrawals are limited to £50 a day. To satisfy its target group's demand for *simplicity*, the card does not offer additional benefits, such as purchase cover.

Rivals see Barclaycard as appealing desperately to a market that it would previously have spurned. Mark Christopher, marketing manager of Save & Prosper, which offers its own range of cards, says: "The Sense is a budget card aimed at the working class. Barclaycard is moving down the socio-economic scale. The more creditworthy top end of the market is saturated. American Express has moved downmarket in the hope that their new recruits will eventually upgrade to a charge card."

The arrival of new cards does not mean *that* credit card *companies* have entirely abandoned the attempt to attract the free-spending. Barclaycard Gold, which was launched last week and is available only by *invitation* to Barclaycard customers, is for credit card enthusiasts confident in managing their finances.

It offers a *minimum* credit limit of £2,500, well above the Barclaycard average of £750, and a further credit line of £5,000. Unlike most gold cards, *there is no minimum annual income* requirement. It undercuts the standard Barclaycard interest rate by 2 percentage points, with an APR of 20.9 per cent.

If you are one of the cardless millions who feels that life might be easier with a credit card, Save & Prosper offers the lowest monthly rate at 1 per cent. There is a £12 annual fee, and an APR of 14.6 per cent. "The majority of our cardholders are aged between 35 and 45. They are a better credit risk," says Mr Christopher. "We avoid younger customers and the self-employed."

Save & Prosper is the only company to stipulate that its credit card holders are homeowners. The Alliance & Leicester Atlantic Visa card offers the second lowest rates at a 1.38 per cent monthly rate, with a £10 annual fee, and an APR of 18.9 per cent.

For younger non-homeowners brave enough to become plastic empowered, there is Barclaycard, which charges a 1.65 per cent monthly rate (APR 22.9 per cent) with a £10 annual fee, and an APR of 22.9 per cent.

The Natwest Access offers an attractive 1.67 per cent monthly rate, with a £12 annual fee, and an APR of 23.4 per *cent. Among the building societies,* National & Provincial has a 1.53 per cent monthly rate, with no annual fee, and an APR of 19.9 per cent. The TSB Trustcard has a 1.67 per cent monthly rate, with no annual fee, and an APR of 21.9 per cent.

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Winning ways to make charity cash go further

As the public now prefers a flutter on the lottery to putting their small change into charity boxes, charities are losing out and having to make their dwindling funds work harder. By shopping around or clubbing together with another branch of the same charity, they can get a higher interest rate.

Charities with big cash flows can negotiate their own deals with banks and building societies. But local charities and clubs with more limited resources should be able to find a suitable account at a local bank or building society.

Banks tend to offer more sophisticated accounts with added extras, such as cheque *books, telephone banking and* specialist advisers, while building societies offer no-frills, instant-access accounts with higher rates of interest. Examples are the Ecology Building Society charity postal account, which pays a flat rate of 5.7 per cent gross on balances up to £50,000, and the Northern Rock Building Society, where the flat rate is 6.25 per cent gross.

The Leeds & Holbeck Building Society offers 5.8 per cent gross on balances of £100 or *more, while at the Yorkshire* Building Society charities can earn 6.5 per cent gross if they have £25,000 to invest. One alternative is the Charities Aid Foundation cash deposit fund that gives money-market rates. The fund has £110 million of charitable savings.

Charities should check rates of interest to see whether they are tiered and whether the account is suitable for a high or low number of transactions. Other details to note are the charges and whether the account offers instant access without penalty. You should find out when interest starts to be added to cheques and cash paid into the account. Nationwide Building Society starts to pay interest on cash three working days after the deposit is made. Although cheques take seven days to clear, interest is paid from day three. Banks pay interest monthly or quarterly and societies annually or twice a year.

Midland, Barclays and Lloyds make charges if more than ten withdrawals are made in a month, although the National Westminster Clubs and Societies Reserve account offers free banking for customers with a turnover of less than £25,000 a year. NatWest says this means 96 per cent of those using the account get free banking. Those with a larger turnover may use National Westminster's ActionLine telephone banking service, with *concessionary charges. Many* building societies offer extra facilities. The Portman offers a cheque book on its Cheque Account for Treasurers. This has a rate of 5.2 per cent on £20,000 plus, free standing orders, direct debits, and a monthly statement. The instant-access Girobank charity account offers a bank card and cheque book and can be operated by post or telephone.

KAREN MURRAY

TOP FIVE BUILDING SOCIETIES

Name	Status	Minimum deposit	Interest	
Halifax Instant Xtra Plus	Charities, clubs, societies, pensions	£50	£25,000+	6.25%
			£10,000+	5.00%
			£5,000+	4.45%
			£2,500+	4.25%
			£500+	4.00%
			£50+	1.00%
Nationwide Treasurer's A/c	*Clubs, societies,* charities	£50		2.95%
Woolwich Prime Gold	Charities	None	£50,000+	5.50%
			£25,000+	5.25%
			£10,000+	4.85%
			£500+	3.85%
			£1+	1.20%
Alliance & Leicester Club A/c	Clubs, societies, charities, pensions	£1	£2,500+	5.15%
			£500+	3.75%
Leeds Permanent Treasurer's Report A/c	Charities, pensions	£1		5.65%

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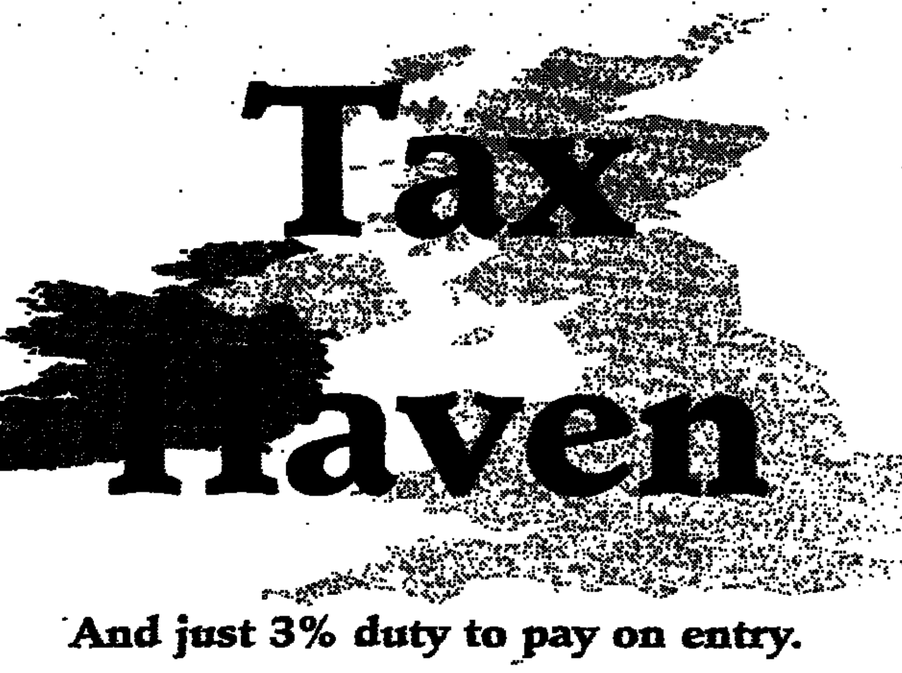

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Sara McConnell examines the tax implications if commissions are repaid

When a life assurance rebate is not quite what it seems

The way it was: before the era of high-pressure, high-commission salesmen, the doorstep insurance man was seen as a friend

If your financial adviser offers to repay all or part of his commission for selling you a life assurance policy, do not be overwhelmed by his generosity.

For one thing, the rebate will be taxed, as the Inland Revenue made clear earlier this month. As the commission is being paid by you in the first place as part of your investment, you are effectively being taxed on your own money.

Secondly, the offer of a rebate is a useful marketing ploy that stops you asking yourself if you should have gone for an investment trust or other savings plan that does not pay so much commission to your adviser in the first place.

Endowments, insurance bonds and other life assurance company savings plans have come under increasingly fierce attack from some independent advisers, as well as from regulators, for the large commissions they generate for the people who sell them and their inflexible structure that stops investors cashing in plans in the early years unless they are prepared to lose money. The Office of Fair Trading is expected to publish a critical report on endowment policies next Friday.

The Revenue's determination to enforce a 16-year-old ruling that investors will be taxed on any rebates of commission they receive from their advisers is certain to reopen the whole question of the cost and value for money of endowments and other long-term savings plans with life cover attached. The ruling applies to life assurance, annuities and personal pensions.

Rebating commission has become a popular way for advisers to counter accusations that they persuade people to take out the policies that will pay them the most commission.

Since January, advisers have been forced to tell their customers how much will be deducted from their investment to cover the adviser's commission. Many advisers and life companies are restructuring their charges to lessen (actually or apparently) the impact of the up-front charge levied to cover the adviser's commission.

Some advisers now charge their customers a fee and agree to rebate their commission from the life company, either by adding it back on to the investment or in a cash lump sum. Others set part of their commission against the premium so customers pay less than the full amount.

The Revenue has made it clear that any such rebates are taxable and must be declared on your income tax return. Investors who have received rebated commission in the past may find themselves being chased for the tax, although the Revenue says that it has "no plans to trawl through the records". But it adds: "If something comes to light and there is some tax which has not been paid, we would pursue it in the normal way." This could mean a tax bill with interest added from the time the tax was owed.

Such a tax liability would not count as retrospective because the ruling is not new, says the Revenue. If the Revenue enforces the ruling strictly, it could kill off rebates, some members of the insurance industry are predicting. The main casualties are likely to be independent financial advisers rather than the direct sales forces of insurance companies, banks and building societies that generally do not offer to rebate their commission to their customers.

One way to avoid being taxed on rebates, particularly for long-term contracts, which earn the largest commissions, is to go to a fee-based adviser who does not receive commission. In this case there would be no rebate, and therefore no tax to pay. Many insurance companies now sell pensions on "nil commission" terms. Fewer sell life assurance in this way, however.

Another way is to negotiate a discount rather than a rebate of commission. Discounts are not taxable. If your priority is to make regular savings, you could take out a unit trust or investment trust savings plan, inside or outside a Pep, rather than buying an insurance company savings plan. Unit and investment trusts and Peps are not included in the Revenue's blanket ruling although rebates of commission on them could be taxed in certain circumstances. Up-front charges are also lower than on insurance based savings plans.

James Higgins, of Chamberlain de Broë, the financial adviser, says: "Fee-based advisers should not be advising people to go for high-commission paying policies. They should be looking at investment trusts for regular savings and nil-commission carrying pensions. Most financial planning should not have anything to do with commission."

THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

The most direct route to interest-free credit

From Mr Philip Wraight

Sir, Cathleen Stephen (April 15) could have interest-free credit right up to the first payment date by paying by direct debit. Some cards will accept direct debit for the minimum, but the Co-operative Bank is the only one I know of which will collect the full amount.

At least four working days are required for payment by cheque. This reduces the interest free credit period of cards with a later payment date. For those who pay in full every month the Co-operative Bank direct is trouble free.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP WRAIGHT,
22 Twentylands,
Rolleston-on-Dove,
Staffordshire.

Living where the water flows uphill

From Mr R. S. Wills

Sir, Householders in the South West will view the recent letters in your columns (April 8 and 15) on the subject of water rates with some envy.

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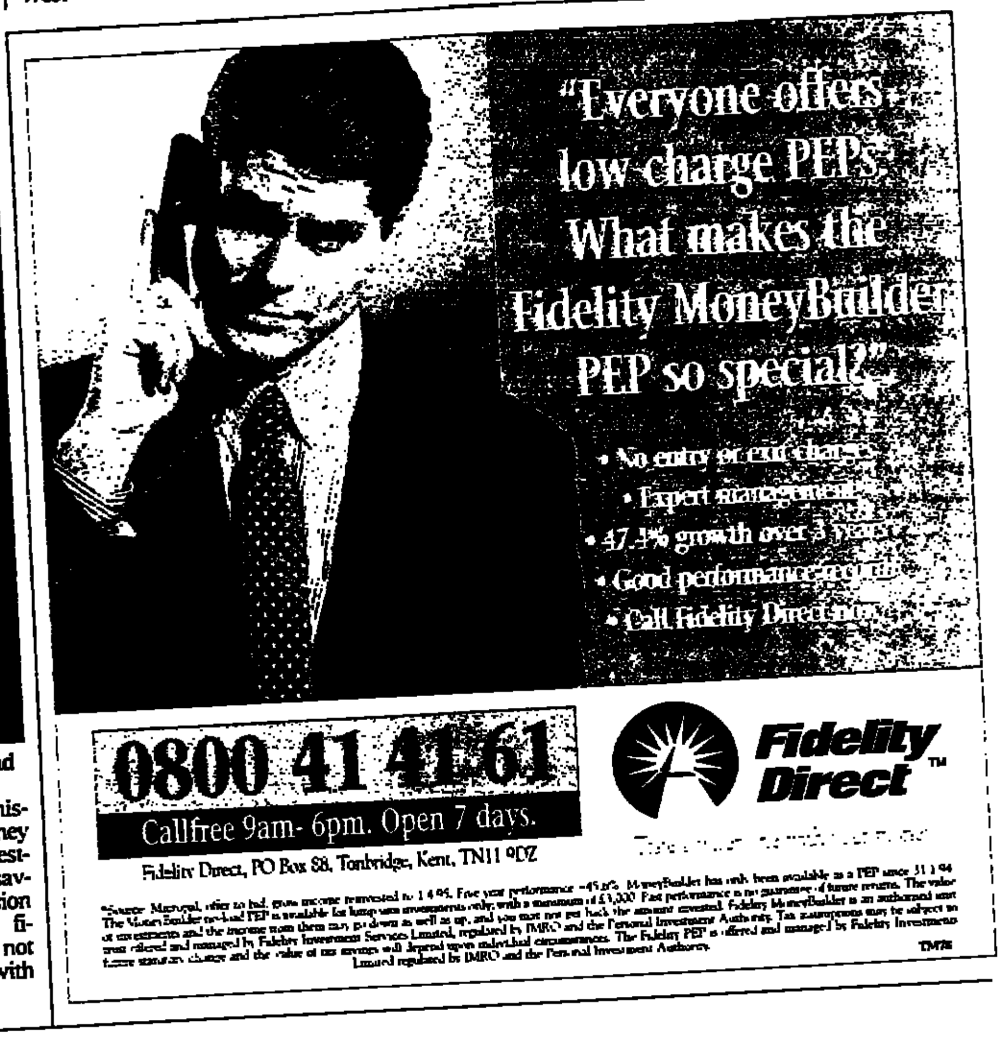

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BALANCE	RATES
£50,000 or over	6.65% Gross p.a.
£25,000 to £49,999	6.10% Gross p.a.
£10,000 to £24,999	5.65% Gross p.a.
£5,000 to £9,999	5.25% Gross p.a.

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I enclose a Sterling Cheque or draft for £ ______ (min £5,000 for first deposit) made payable to "Yorkshire Guernsey" a/c (Your name). Please open the following account: Offshore Key Extra ☐ Offshore Key Ninety ☐ Offshore Key Access ☐ Choice of Interest Payment Dates: 31 March ☐ 30 April ☐ Please send me full details of Yorkshire Guernsey ☐

TO OPEN AN A/C FILL IN COUPON. SEND TO: YORKSHIRE GUERNSEY, PO BOX 304, CANADA COURT, ST PETER PORT, GUERNSEY, CHANNEL ISLANDS GY1 3SF. Tim. 22.4

MR/MRS/MISS
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
FORENAME(S)
SURNAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
TEL. NO. (STD)
SIGNATURE(S)

YORKSHIRE GUERNSEY

Yorkshire Guernsey has its registered office and principal place of business at PO Box 304, Canada Court, Upland Road, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 3SF and is licensed under The Banking Supervision (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 1994 as amended. The paid-up share capital and reserves of Yorkshire Guernsey Limited exceed £15 million. Interest rates correct at time of going to press. Copies of the most recent audited accounts of Yorkshire Guernsey are available on demand from the above address. Deposits made with offices of Yorkshire Guernsey Limited in Guernsey are not covered by the Deposit Protection Scheme under the UK Banking Act 1982. Under the Building Societies Act 1986 Yorkshire Building Society is obliged to meet any liabilities of Yorkshire Guernsey Limited which that company is unable to meet out of its own assets. Interest is paid annually and calculated on a daily basis commencing three working days from the day of receipt and up to, but not including, the day of withdrawal.

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Tax Free Savings Plan

TSB We want you to say YES

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) ______ *First Name:* ______
Address: ______
Postcode: ______ TO646

Send to: TSB Bank plc, PO Box 758, Tredegar Park, Newport, Gwent NP1 9YZ.

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Guides to coping with the taxman

THE 1995-96 edition of *Tax Facts*, published by Kogan Page, provides a simple explanation of taxation in the light of the 1994 Budget changes. The guide explains the decision by the Chancellor to simplify the basis of taxation for new businesses so that those started after April 5, 1995, will be taxed on their actual profits. Written by tax specialists at Kidsons Impey, the firm of chartered accountants, the 160-page guide costing £8.99 is available at bookshops or from Kogan Page at 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JN.

■ Ninety-eight types of investment are explained in *The Savers & Investors Guide 1995-96* by David Lewis, a personal finance writer. Copies may be obtained from Wisebuy Publications, 25 West Cottages, London, NW6 1RJ for £6.50, or from bookshops.

■ If you are self-employed, *How to Cut Your Tax Bill*, also published by Kogan Page, could provide useful information on how to deal with the Inland Revenue and Social Security, which state benefits are taxable and what tax breaks are available. Chapters cover financial aspects of family life from marriage to death, and from home to life assurance. Written by tax specialists at Grant Thornton, the business adviser, the guide costs £6.99 and is available from bookshops and local Grant Thornton offices.

■ CCN Group, the consumer credit reference agency, has issued *Helping You to Understand Your Credit File*. The booklet explains to consumers the role of credit reference agencies, what information is held, where they get it from, and how consumers can exercise their legal rights to obtain information held about them. CCN receives 500,000 requests from consumers for their credit files every year. CCN does not make credit card decisions, but it does supply information to help lenders to make a decision. This second edition of the booklet explains how incorrect information may be put right. Copies of credit files can be obtained by sending a cheque or postal order for £1 to The Consumer Help Service, CCN Group, PO Box 40, Nottingham, NG7 2SS. The booklet will be sent automatically with the credit file.

MORAG PRESTON

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.70	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31.5.99	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly
Coventry BS 01203 839333	Fixed Rate Bond	31.3.97	£25,000	8.30	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Investmnt Certs	5yr bond	£1,000	8.60	F/Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	3 Year Fixed	31.3.98	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	*Account*	*Notice of term*	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Market Harborough BS 01858 463244		5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

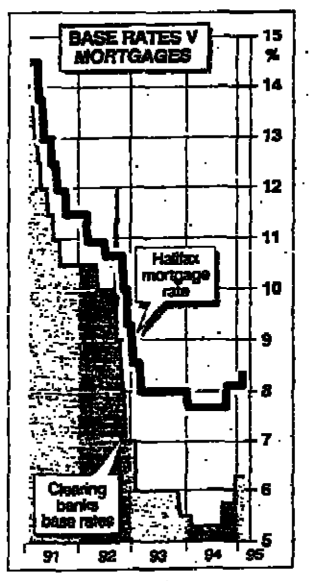
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

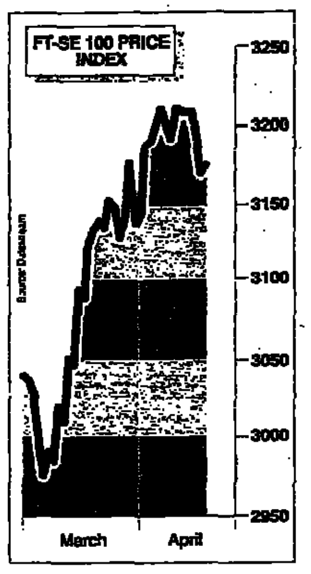
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 180180	*15.40%*	*£116.54*	*£103.14*
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Abbey National 01908 690140	16.9%	£117.41	£105.05

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable): OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ₆	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ₆	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond₄	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†₂₃	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Yearly Plan†₃	5.85			20-400/mth	14day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond₃ ₆	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†₃	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ₆	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000₅	60day	01253766151

¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ₄0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ₅£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings ₆Taxable but cred in full

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Life..........Level	£10,599	£11,645	£12,984
Can Life..........Level	£10,483	£11,640	£13,208
Sn Lfe Ca..........Level	£10,694	£11,723	£13,080
MGM Asmce..........Level	£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
Generali..........Level	£10,692	£11,706	£13,032

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nrch Union..........Level	£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Prudential..........Level	£9,814	£10,538	£11,606
Sn Lfe Ca..........Level	£9,812	£10,578	£11,662
Generali..........Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
MGM Asmce..........Level	£9,927	£10,670	£11,779

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Nrwch Uni..........Level	£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Sn Lfe Ca..........Level	£9,450	£10,033	£10,849
Canada Lfe..........Level	£9,260	£9,906	£10,826
MGM Asmce..........Level	£9,621	£10,226	£11,095
Generali..........Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 375 1175)

Compiled by: Morag Preston

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at April 21 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	3,000	Gan Life	3.70
	5,000	AIG Life	5.55
	10,000	AIG Life	5.75
	20,000	AIG Life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
	100,000	AIG Life	5.95
	250,000	*AIG Life*	*6.00*
2 Years	3,000	Gan Life	5.20
	5,000	AIG Life	6.05
	10,000	AIG Life	6.25
	20,000	AIG Life	6.35
	50,000	AIG Life	6.40
	100,000	AIG Life	6.45
	250,000	AIG Life	6.50
3 Years	3,000	Eurolife	6.70
	5,000	Eurolife	6.80
	10,000	Eurolife	6.90
	25,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years	3,000	GAN Life	6.00
	10,000	GAN Life	6.30
	20,000	GAN Life	6.40
	50,000	GAN Life	6.50
5 Years	3,000	Eurolife	7.20
	5,000	Eurolife	7.30
	10,000	Eurolife	7.40
	25,000	Eurolife	7.50

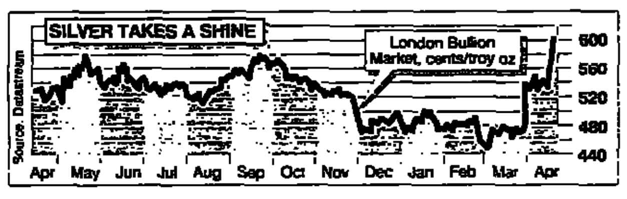
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	90.50	10.349	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.75	10.215	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	125.75	10.326	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.75	10.462	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.75	10.498	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	117.50	9.993	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.75	10.455	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	105.25	11.166	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.75	9.853	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	119.25	9.926	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	136.75	10.482	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	127.50	9.949	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	103.375	10.396	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	*12.625%*	*123.50*	*10.249*	*100.45*	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	122.00	10.342	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.75	10.482	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.6750%	103.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	9.50156%	100.50	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171-601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Natnl & Provincial 01274 733444	2.95	neg	90	5.5% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	£25-100k	95	7.45%dsc-6m 2%d-6m,.5%d-12m
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire *0274 740740*	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths *3% disc-6 mnths*
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
HYPO - MSL 0344 394095	*3.25*	*£100k+*	95	*5.10% discount* to 1.5.96

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0455 251 234	1.25	to 150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 590545	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Abbey National 0131 556 8555	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

GOOD NEWS FOR HOME BUYERS!
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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	459.30	486.10	- 0.20	..
UK Equity	583.20	617.20	+ 0.30	...
Property	490.60	519.20	+ 0.30	
Fixed Interest	314.20	332.50	- 1.50	
Money	253.90	268.70	+ 0.30	...
International	370.70	392.30	- 2.20	.

ABBEY LIFE
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL
01202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fd Inc	279.40	294.20		
-do- Acc	527.70	555.50		
Equity Fd Inc	172.20	181.30	- 0.10	0.0
-do- Acc	229.70	241.90	..	0.0
Selective Fd	496.60	522.80	- 0.40	0.0
Money Fd	383.20	403.40	+ 0.30	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	411.30	433.00	- 0.10	..
Eq Fd Ser 4	[illegible]	230.60	- 0.10	
Man Ser 4	661.20	696.10	+ 0.20	0.0
Conv Ser 4	332.90	350.50	+ 0.30	
Money Ser 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 0.20	
Fixed Int Ser 4	344.10	362.50	- 1.10	0.0
American Ser 4	481.40	506.80	- 5.10	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	690.20	[illegible]	- 1.00	0.0
Indexed Inc Ser 4	211.70	222.90	- 0.50	0.0
Japan Ser 4	246.40	264.30	+ 3.70	0.0

ALBANY LIFE
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ
01707 42311

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL
01793 514514

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks
01494 463463

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	176.60	186.80	- 0.10	
Euro Opportunity	211.30	223.50	+ 0.60	
North Amer Opp	159.00	164.20	- 5.00	..
Far East Opp	181.30	192.00	+ 0.70	..
Gwth Prop Ser 1	129.90	136.60		..
Gth Prop Ser 2	*179.10*	*189.50*	*+ 0.30*	...
Fixed Int	189.60	200.70	- 0.40	..
Cash	158.30	167.60	+ 0.10	..
Overseas	176.60	186.80		
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	326.70	343.90	+ 2.80	
UK Equity	564.50	594.30	+ 3.50	
Property	255.50	270.00		..
Money Market	255.20	264.70	+ 0.20	
Fixed Interest	296.10	313.90	+ 0.20	
Japan	362.70	381.80	- 8.60	
North America	149.60	157.50		
International	274.50	289.00	+ 2.10	..
European	274.40	286.90	- 5.90	..
Far East	128.30	135.10	- 2.30	

CANADA LIFE
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
01707 51122

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Growth	271.80			
Managed	320.90	337.70	- 0.70	
Property	238.50	251.10	- 0.10	
Gilt & Fxd Int	239.40	252.10	- 1.60	
Equity	355.70	374.50	- 0.20	
Cash	220.90	232.60	+ 0.10	
CLife Euro Mgd	370.00	390.50	- 1.10	
CLife Intl Fd	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 3.10	

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU 01908 606101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	168.20	177.10		
Managed Fund	594.30	625.60	- 4.50	
Equity Fund	341.10	359.10	- 2.60	

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566

EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Secure Fund	177.90	187.30	+ 0.20	..
Managed Fund	233.70	246.10	+ 0.40	..
-do- Series 2	*153.70*	*161.80*	*+ 0.30*	
Adventurous Fd	189.00	199.00	- 0.30	..
-do- Series 2	145.20	152.90	- 0.20	...
Equity Mnged Fd	233.20	245.50	+ 0.10	.
-do- Series 2	154.90	163.10	+ 0.10	..
UK Pref Fxd Int	141.30	148.80		.
UK Equity Fund	161.50	170.10	+ 0.30	.
Property Fund	120.10	126.50	...	...
Envrnmntl Opps	161.50	170.00		
Euro Fund	184.30	194.00	+ 0.70	...
North Amer Fd	189.90	199.80	- 1.50	.
Oriental Ops	217.30	228.80	- 1.70	.
Japanese Fund	125.00	131.60	+ 0.80	
Bri & West Life	125.40	132.60	- 0.10	.
Bri & West Pen	147.00	150.60	- 0.20	..

EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Eagle/Mid Uts	256.20	265.50	- 1.20	3.45

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH
01722 413366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed (Mind)	303.60	319.60		
UK Equity	402.50	424.10	- 0.60	
Stewardship	341.70	359.70	+ 1.40	.
Overseas Equity	278.60	293.30	- 0.70	
North American	147.30	155.10	- 0.80	
Pacific Basin	160.70	169.20	- 0.40	
European	218.20	229.70	- 0.70	
Property	202.00	212.70	+ 0.10	
Fixed Interest	231.90	244.20	- 0.20	
Index Linked	167.90	176.80	+ 0.30	
Cash	203.30	214.00	+ 0.10	

GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GT Plan Far East	301.10	[illegible]	[illegible]	
GT Plan Wwide	455.80	497.10	- 2.30	

GAN LIFE & PENSIONS
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity	168.40	177.20	- 1.50	
-do- Pens	192.50	202.60	- 2.00	..
International	144.80	152.40	- 0.50	..
-do- Pens	157.80	166.10	- 0.40	...
Deposit	141.20	148.60	- 0.10	.
-do- Pens	*167.70*	*176.50*	*+ 0.10*	...

HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA
0171 638 5757

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity Fd	350.90	373.20	- 3.40	..
North America	339.20	360.90	- 0.70	.
Far East Fund	584.30	621.70	+ 1.60	...
Global Managed	455.30	484.40	- 3.10	.
Deposit Fund	232.10	244.40		..
Prime Residential	139.40	145.70		
European Fund	256.90	273.40	+ 0.10	
Fixed Interest	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 0.30	

HILL SAMUEL LIFE
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon
0181 686 4355

IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF 01727 48192

LAURENTIAN LIFE
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ
01452 371371

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE
0131 225 2211

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property	227.00	239.10	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	354.30	373.10	- 1.30	...
American	*247.90*	*261.10*	*- 0.70*	...
Pacific	345.90	364.20	+ 3.00	...
European	487.90	513.70	+ 4.00	...
International	308.50	324.80	+ 1.00	...
Fixed Interest	234.20	246.60	- 1.40	...
Index Linked	196.30	206.80	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	197.30	207.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed	286.40	301.60	- 0.30	...
Worldwide	119.50	125.90	- 0.60	...
Pen Worldwide	126.90	133.70	- 0.80	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN
0141 248 6321

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Flex Fund (35)	£16.52	£17.04	+56.80	...
Safety Fund	236.40	248.90	- 0.70	...
Growth Fund	229.80	241.90	+ 0.70	...
Opportunity Fd	226.80	238.80	+ 0.30	...
Cash Fund	176.80	186.20	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	*339.10*	*357.00*	*- 2.60*	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	201.60	212.30	+ 0.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	181.00	190.60	+ 0.10	...
International Fd	280.50	295.30	+ 1.40	...
North American	228.50	240.60	- 2.10	...
Property Fund	130.20	137.10	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	245.70	258.70	+ 0.70	..
UK Smaller	233.00	245.30	+ 1.20	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA
0131 556 9181

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Mixed	266.40	279.50	+ 0.20	...
Equity	279.30	294.10	+ 0.50	...
International	268.80	283.00	- 0.50	...
Property	234.90	247.40	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	220.50	232.20	- 0.10	...
Index Linked	179.80	189.40	...	...
Cash	189.10	199.20	+ 0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	792.80	841.50	- 1.70	...
Cash Fund	343.90	362.40	..	...
Property Fund	296.50	312.90	...	...
Equity Fund	893.90	951.00	- 4.50	...
Fxd Interest Fund	462.20	487.10	- 0.60	...
International	*387.00*	*411.80*	*- 2.00*	...
High Income	703.80	748.80	+ 1.50	...
Far East	551.40	586.60	- 1.80	...
North American	529.20	563.00	- 7.30	...
Special Sits	644.30	685.50	+ 1.60	...
Technology	601.60	640.10	-15.50	...
Extra Income Fd	381.30	405.70	- 0.60	...
Gilt Fund	479.90	510.60	- 1.00	...
European	150.60	160.30	+ 0.10	...
Adventurous Mg	214.90	226.30	- 1.40	...
Secure Mgd	148.40	156.40	- 0.30	...
Equity Inc Dist	114.60	130.80	+ 0.10	4.60
North American	109.00	114.90	- 0.30	5.22

SCOTTISH WIDOWS
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU
0131 655 6000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£610.50	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	£868.80	...	+ 0.50	...
Agricultural Fd	£813.90	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc	£801.10	...	+ 0.40	...
Abbey Nat Fd	*£451.80*	...	*+ 0.30*	...
Abbey Nat Acc	£477.20	...	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	£351.00	...	+ 0.10	...
Investment (A)	£336.70	...	...	...
Equity	£12.55	...	- 3.20	...
Equity Acc	£12.00	...	- 3.20	...
Money Fund	£481.60	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc	£460.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Actuarial Fd	£581.10	...	- 0.20	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	£388.20	...	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc	£388.20	...	+ 0.90	...
Retire Annuity	£12.52	...	...	...
Immed Annuity	£307.90	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	£229.70	...	+ 0.20	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Growth Account	£14.89	...	...	...
Managed Acc	*£840.70*	...	*+ 3.70*	...
Equity Account	£12.61	...	+ 0.90	...
Mngd Fund Acc	386.10	406.50	+ 1.70	...
Equity Fund Acc	524.30	551.90	+ 0.40	...
Prop Fund Acc	265.00	279.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	307.80	324.10	+ 1.80	...
Money Fund Acc	*224.50*	*236.30*	*+ 0.10*	...
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	204.70	215.50	+ 1.00	...
Pers Pens Acct	£19.16	...	...	...
Pens Mngd Accs	891.20	938.10	...	...
Pens Guarantee	259.20	272.80	...	...
Pens Equity	344.30	362.40	...	...
Pens Property	307.80	324.00	...	...
Pens Fixed Int	285.80	300.90	...	...
Pens Intl	242.30	255.00	...	...
Pens Money	240.90	253.60	...	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	195.70	206.00	...	...

SUN LIFE UNIT
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL
0117 9426911

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Acc	889.10	935.90	- 4.10	...
Property Acc	299.00	314.80	- 5.50	...
Equity Acc	£14.44	£15.20	-10.50	
Fixed Int Acc	401.20	422.40	+ 0.60	
Cash Acc	573.90	333.90	+ 0.30	
Amer Equity Acc	362.90	382.10	- 9.60	...
Japan Acc	311.70	328.20	+ 2.50	...
Pacific Acc	350.00	368.50	- 0.10	...
Far Eastern Acc	829.20	872.90	+ 2.00	...
International Acc	585.10	615.90	- 2.40	...
Distribution Fund	273.60	288.10	- 0.50	6.07
European	192.80	203.00	+ 1.10	...
Deffrd Dist	167.70	176.60	- 0.90	...

TSB LIFE LTD
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE
01264 345678

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	283.20	298.20	- 0.10	...
Property Fund	230.80	243.10	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	224.30	236.20	+ 0.10	...
Money Fund	203.10	213.90	+ 0.20	...

Robert Miller casts a slide-rule over the performance of the 84 unit trusts launched in the UK during 1994

How newcomer trusts fared on the back of turbulent world markets

Chance and skill come into play when deciding which new unit trust to select

Picking a winner from a host of new unit trusts is almost as much a game of chance as it is of skill. Ask anyone who backed one of 1994's crop of 84 newcomers.

Allowing for a period of grace and, therefore, measuring their performance from the start of January this year to the beginning of April, only three of last year's unit trust launches are showing a profit. Even then, the return was less than £3 for every £100 invested. A closer analysis of the figures, provided specially by Micropal, shows that of the 84 new launches in 1994, only 14 made any return at all for investors. Profits were generally in the range of £1 to £2 for every £100 invested although a handful managed to do better.

Broken down further, the computer printout shows that only two unit trusts, M&G's Sterling High Interest and Perpetual's Money, made a positive return over all the periods measured since their respective launches. At their high points, M&G was up 5.73 per cent and Perpetual 2.09 per cent.

But unit trusts in general fared badly last year on the back of turbulent world stock markets. In the UK alone, the FTSE All-Share index fell by 10 per cent in 1994. As a result of the volatile equity and bond markets, at no time between the period of April 1, 1994, to April 3, 1995, did the Micropal average of all unit trusts produce a profit. Over that timespan, the benchmark Micropal unit trust is showing a loss of 9.71 per cent.

Of course it is very hard, although not impossible, for a new unit trust to show a profit after just two or three months. Unit trusts deduct an average up-front fee of 5 per cent, and some even more, from your money before it is invested so the fund manager has to make that investment work even harder in the first few months simply to overcome the charging handicap. But it can be done. The Credit Suisse South Africa unit trust, for example, is showing a handsome return of nearly 15 per cent since its launch last summer. At the time, South Africa had just installed its first democratically elected government, sanctions had been lifted and President Mandela's drive to attract inward investment was receiving enthusiastic support from overseas.

Electrolux, the manufacturer of household appliances, immediately announced that it would set up a new joint venture as did Pepsi, the food and drink group.

Another new unit trust to benefit from the renewed surge of interest in South Africa was Save & Prosper's Southern Africa fund. Between October and the beginning of April, it was showing a return, albeit a modest one, of 3.23 per cent.

But investors who jumped on the South African bandwagon later missed the excitement. Both trusts are showing a loss in the period from the start of the year to the beginning of April, with Credit Suisse down 3.51 per cent and Save & Prosper nearly 7 per cent. This is not necessarily a signal that the best of the South Africa story has unfolded.

S&P can at least console itself with the fact that its Southern Africa venture was the most successful of its four new unit trust launches last year. Of these, only the S&P Extra Income fund is showing a gain over any of the time periods measured since launch. Since dealings started on October 3, it is up by 3.08 per cent and, so far this year, it has contained the downside to 7p for every £100 invested.

The real laggard in S&P's newcomers is its Latin America fund. Investors who piled in at launch early last summer and have stuck with it ever since will have seen the value of every £100 invested slide to £67.70. But while specialist unit trusts, whether they invest in emerging markets or commodities such as gold and oil, provide some glamour and the potential for profit, the UK stock market is still the bedrock for most investors.

Last year, unit trusts collectively attracted almost £20 billion and much of it was invested in UK funds representing both the income and capital growth sectors. In spite of the 10 per cent fall in the FTSE All-Share index, a number of new UK trust launches managed to limit losses to less than that. Fidelity's UK Dividend Growth, for example, is down by less than 3 per cent since launch, while the Sovereign FTSE 100 unit trust has fallen by just 0.81 per cent.

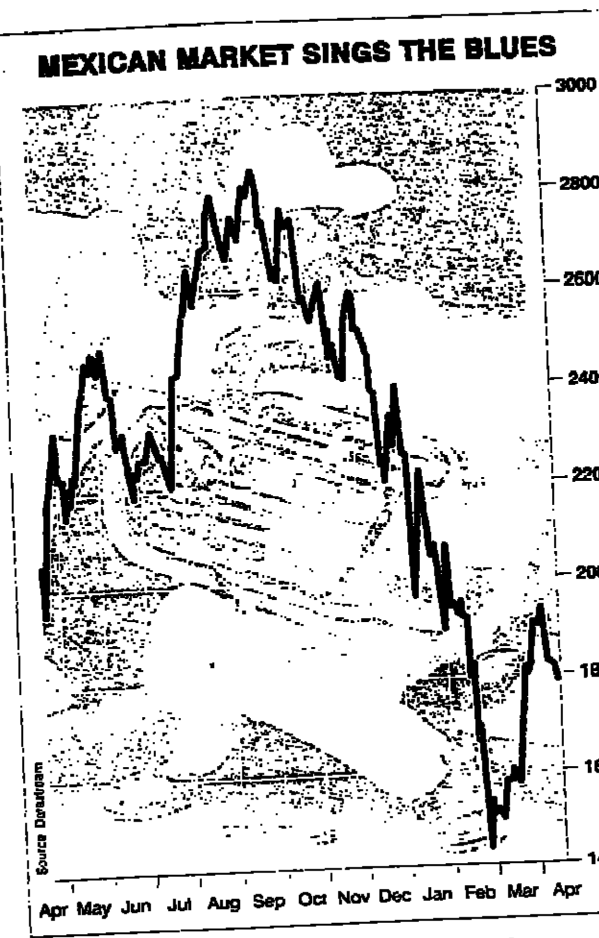
Income was a recurring theme of last year's launches. In common with other newcomers, they too are showing losses but fortunately these have not been as brutal as some of the more exotic funds. The danger for income-seekers, however, is that to maintain a certain level of income in the face of such uncertain stock market conditions it may be necessary to dig into the capital.

In performance terms, the Allchurches Higher Income fund is showing a loss so far this year of just under 7 per cent while Guinness Flight's Income Share fund is down 7.56 per cent since its launch a year ago. Midland's Monthly Income fund has turned in a steady performance since its debut in February 1994. Investors who went in at the start have seen the value of every £100 invested fall to £94.46, but since July it is showing a profit, even it is a rather modest one of just 30p.

Unit trust managers defend many of their new launches on the grounds that they are satisfying investor demand. That is certainly true, but only up to a point. Many of the more esoteric unit trusts are more marketing than investment driven. The sad fact is that by the time they are ready to push the boat out that particular market or commodity has peaked and investors are piling in at the top only to see the value of their investment immediately nosedive.

Unit trusts are not a short-term investment and a snapshot of just one year should not be taken in isolation. But it can serve as an early warning signal. You might, for instance, have chosen the right theme but the wrong manager who cannot match the performance of other similar trusts.

Generally speaking, a reasonable time span is two to three years. But if you do get your timing right and are sitting on a respectable profit, never be afraid to bank it.



Funds flop in Latin America

The fall from grace of the Mexican stock market has been dramatic. Once considered the first port of call for any investor wanting an exposure to Latin America, it is now being given a wide berth in favour of other smaller markets in the region.

In February, it seemed that relief was at hand when President Clinton, backed by the International Monetary Fund, announced a $50 billion rescue package for Mexico.

Until just before the Easter break, the Mexican stock market had staged a month-long recovery. This might have continued but for a bout of profit-taking by relieved investors and concern over the effectiveness of the Government's emergency economic package.

While the geographical proximity of Mexico to the US proved a major attraction to the notoriously inward-looking US investor, other Latin American countries came into favour on sound investment principles.

Fund managers reasoned that these countries were overthrowing dictatorships and installing democratically elected governments that were prepared to introduce tough fiscal measures to tackle hitherto sky-high inflation rates.

However, the spectre of inflation loomed large on Brazil's horizon this week when the Senate approved a 43 per cent increase in the country's minimum wage.

Looking through last year's launches, Perpetual's Latin American Growth fund, introduced last December, is, hardly surprisingly, down, given the present crisis, by more than 35 per cent, while Baillie Gifford's Latin America trust, launched at the same time, is down nearly 32 per cent.

The equally popular launch theme of the catch-all emerging markets shows a similar pattern.

Sun Life's Emerging Markets trust, for instance, is down almost 33 per cent since launch and the value of £100 invested in Portfolio's Emerging Markets is now worth £81.16. Save & Prosper's Emerging Markets fund is down 24.27 per cent since it came on line at the beginning of March last year.

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TR European Growth Trust PLC	IT	1st	out of 12 funds over 3 years
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IT = Investment Trust; UT = Unit Trust

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Growth sector overdue for recovery

Sharon Colback finds out the views of independent financial advisers on the best UK growth trust options

A year of choppy waters in the UK stock market has left many investors scanning the horizon for direction. With the economy in increasingly good shape, some *independent financial advisers* believe that the UK growth sector, which dropped 7.89 per cent *in the year to the beginning* of April, is overdue for a recovery.

Kean Seager, of Bristol-based Whitechurch Securities, agrees that the sector is promising. "In price/earnings terms, the market is 36 per cent cheaper than it was at its top on February 2, 1994. Company profits are rising strongly, earnings growth, inflation, balance of trade and dividends are all better than expected, yet share prices are unchanged. The reason seems to be the threat of higher interest rates to curb inflation. I don't see inflation rising and I believe that we are near the top of the interest rate cycle. If that is the case, then UK growth looks very attractive."

Mr Seager opts over the long term for smaller com*panies trusts, arguing that it is* easier for small firms to double their profits. He would *choose the Kleinwort Benson* Smaller Companies Trust or GT Smaller Companies Divi*dend. "They have had a rough* ride in the last 12 months," he points out. "It is time for a *turnround.*"

Penny O'Nions, of de Havilland investment advis*ers, is gloomy about the prospects* for UK growth this year, believing that if investors *make up the bid/offer spread* they will be doing well. The spread is the difference between the price at which you buy units in a unit trust, the "offer price", and the price at which you sell your units, the "bid" price. This can be as much as 5 per cent. Mrs O'Nions predicts that 1995 could present the ideal opportunity for regular investment in a UK growth trust. "I would choose Perpetual's UK *Growth, third in the sector* over five years with a rise of 91.98 per cent, or Schroder's *UK Enterprise, which is sec*ond with a 112.10 per cent increase. Both are well managed funds and it is important to choose a good management team with an investment philosophy which matches your own."

> ‘Choose a team with an investment philosophy that matches your own’

Schroder's philosophy is that of any other would-be successful investment manager. "We try to buy cheaply and sell expensive," James Cox, the manager, says. "The UK Enterprise Fund holds between 40 and 45 stocks because we believe in concentrating our bets. We get them right because we have substantial research backing." *The fund is betting at present* on UK manufacturers, exporters, and financial stocks.

Jamie Berry, of Berry Asset Management, *shrugs off the* prospect of a lengthy cycle of *interest rate rises. "I don't see* inflation being much of a problem. We must be close to *the peak in interest rates, but* they have not yet been fully reflected in the share prices," *he claims.*

"The market has moved ahead smartly over the past *six weeks and may consolidate* a bit, but I don't expect to see the FT-SE 100 below 3,000. *Price/earnings ratios are not* demanding, dividend yields are increasing, and there is *strong corporate recovery.* It is a soundly based platform for moving ahead again."

Mr Berry likes Perpetual UK Growth for its broad spread, and Schroder UK Enterprise Trust for its aggressive management style.

BARRY GREENWOOD

Patrica Proctor, a DeliFrance franchise holder, looks for flexible capital growth investment to supplement her pensions

PATRICIA PROCTOR worked for many years as a *financial adviser*, so she has made good provision for her retirement in ten years' time at 60. She *considers St James's Place UK and* General Unit Trust Pep to be one of the most successful additions to her *investment portfolio. She says: "I try* to take out a Pep each year and I look for a flexible capital growth invest*ment to supplement my two pensions.* The St James's Pep has been wonderful. I invested £3,000 in 1992 and it has *risen 46 per cent on a bid to offer basis to* £4,388." The trust, managed by Nils Taub and John Hodson, of J Rothschild, leads *the growth sector over five years, with an* increase of 128.39 per cent, compared with a sector average of 39.05 per cent. A *mainspring of their investment strategy* is to compare UK stocks with their international counterparts, particularly if *a concept is new to Britain. Mr Hodson* says: "We looked, for example, at how cable companies had done in the US, and *anticipated that there would be similar* growth patterns here. We apply the same principle to companies in all sectors since ideas travel and if a good idea works elsewhere in the world there is no reason why it should not do so here. We expect to hold stock for two to three years, so we also look for good, old-fashioned virtues, value for money, a healthy balance sheet *and strong management.*"

Funds poised to regain allure

Income unit trusts invested in UK companies have been faced with a fundamental problem over the past few years. As dividends fell or remained level, some fund managers were forced to buy cheaper and, *in some cases,* poorer quality shares to keep the yield on the trust as high as *possible. This has reduced* overall returns because the capital value of holdings has, *in some cases, decreased,* although yields have remained strong.

However, in spite of these problems, investors would, on average, have made more *money* by investing in an income unit trust than in a building society. Figures from *Micropal, the investment per*formance specialist, show that, on average, £100 invested *five years ago in a UK equity* income unit trust would now be worth £143 with net income *reinvested, while the same* amount invested in an average building society account would be worth £131, including net interest.

The top performing funds, such as Morgan Grenfell's UK Equity Income fund, Perpetual's Income fund and Schroders' Income fund rose in value by 78, 73 and 70 per cent over the five-year period.

But some trusts from household name fund management companies gave their investors a worse deal than building societies. These laggards include Fidelity's £70 million Income Plus fund and Scottish Widows' £200 million UK High Income fund, in which £100 invested five years ago would now be worth £112 and £127, respectively. Mary Blair, Fidelity director, blames its poor fund performance on the drive for a high yield. She says: "Last year, the fund was invested in smaller companies, which underperformed, and before that, the fund was striving for too high a yield at the expense of the *quality of stock.*"

Leslie Robb, Scottish Widows head of UK equities, says: "*In UK equities, Scottish Wid*ows has been through a poor phase of stock selection. *Following on from this,* changes were made to the management team at the end of last year."

Chris Rodgers, Schroders director, said that it had not fallen into the trap of chasing *yields.* "One of the biggest holdings we have at the moment is Glaxo, which yields 4 *per cent. We bought it 12* months ago when the company was giving clear signals *to the market that it intended* to increase dividends."

Those investors whose *trusts have fared badly will be* relieved to learn that the problem of falling dividends is close to resolution. Most investment houses think that this year and next year will bring dividend increases of as much as 10 per cent. Even if interest rates do rise, independent financial advisers believe income-orientated UK unit trusts will regain their allure.

Funds in the UK equity income unit trust sector are currently yielding about 4.5 to 5 per cent, a figure that compares favourably with a building society account.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Roadshow aimed at calming fears

HYPO Foreign & Colonial is embarking on a nationwide *roadshow next month* in an attempt to calm independent financial advisers' fears about *its higher income unit trust* (Caroline Merrell writes).

The two-year-old trust has been dogged by controversy since its launch in February 1993. It is now under further threat with the introduction of corporate-bond Peps, which are expected to promise a competing level of income.

The new plans could cause thousands of disgruntled investors to switch their money out of the Hypo Foreign & Colonial Pep. Craig Walton, Hypo F&C's marketing manager, says: "We just want to demonstrate that the fund is working and delivering what it set out to do."

Hypo F&C Pep uses a complicated blend of derivatives and UK shares to pay unit-holders an extremely high monthly income.

The fund initially paid 10 per cent — double the income that could be obtained from building society accounts at that time. That carrot was enough to entice 78,000 investors to pour a total of £500 million into the fund. This has dwindled to £430 million and about 15,000 investors have left the fund.

Competing investment houses had voiced concerns that the high level of income could not be maintained without using up investors' capital. Sure enough, in May last year, Hypo F&C cut the income payment to 9 per cent because it found it could not maintain the 10 per cent level without risk to unit-holders' capital.

Since then, the fund has continued to be the subject of strong criticism. In terms of total return — that is, when both income and capital are taken into account — the fund has considerably underperformed the UK index. Over two years, the index has risen 12 per cent, while the fund has risen only 6 per cent.

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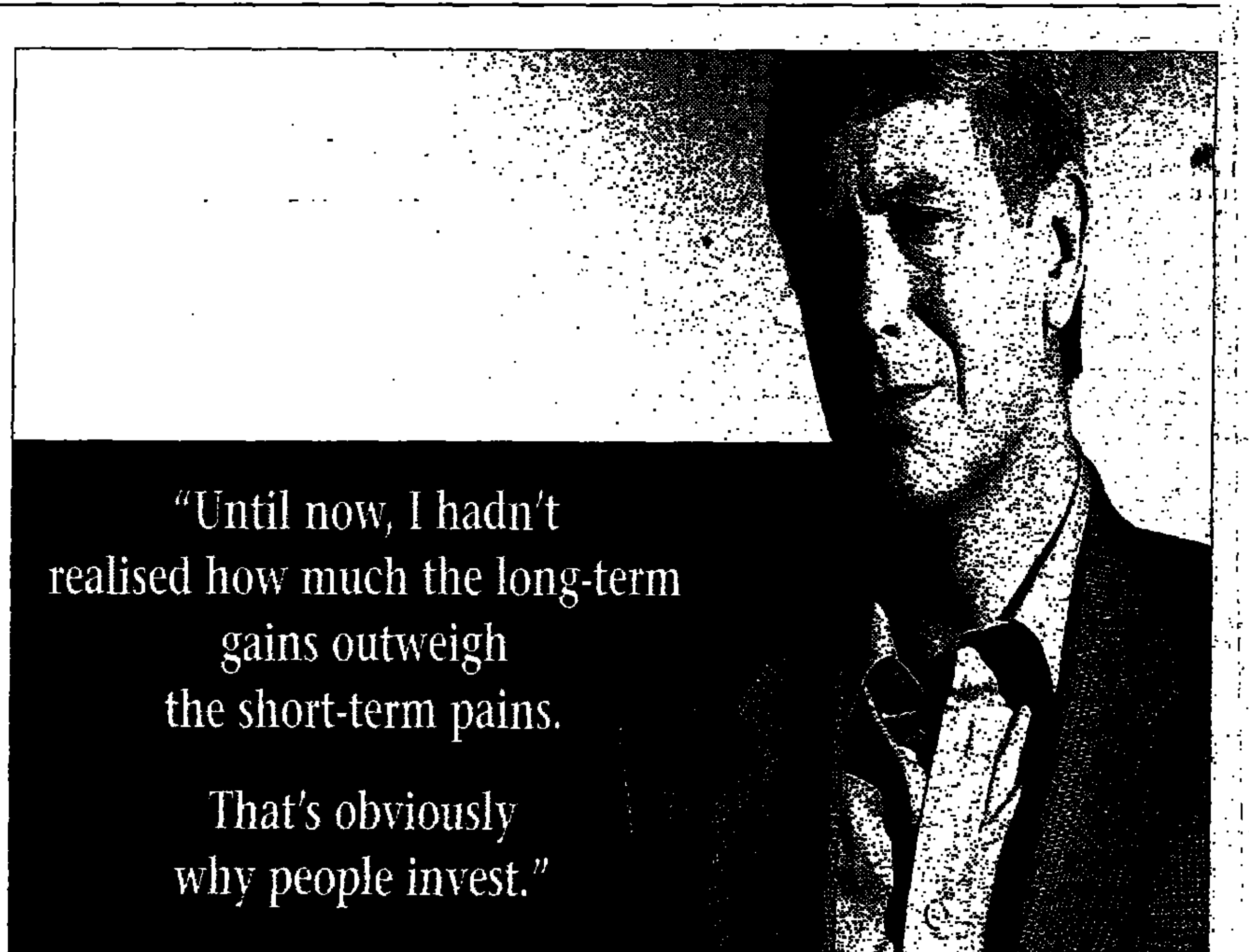

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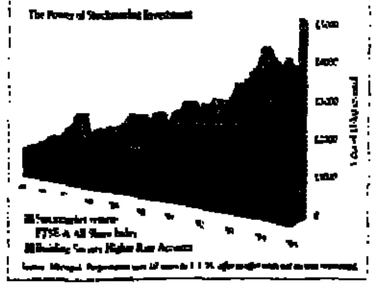

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Liz Dolan

Will it be tears before bedtime?

Liz Dolan finds not everyone is convinced that the new corporate-bond Peps are a good idea for investors

Will it be tears before bedtime?

When Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, gave the go-ahead for corporate-bond Peps in the November Budget, strong men (and women) wept with joy. It was the answer to the pensioner's dream, they said. Here, at last, was a brilliant, tax-efficient way to provide risk-averse investors with a secure and generous income.

Barclays Bank predicted the new market would be worth about £6 billion within the next three years. "This could be the best opportunity ever to open up the potential tax-free income of unit trusts to millions of savers hitherto deterred by the risks involved in buying shares," enthused Jain Castiau, marketing director, Barclays Unicorn.

But not everyone is convinced that the new Peps are a good idea. Foster & Braithwaite, the private client stockbroker, is one of a small, but significant, band of dissenters in the industry.

This week, the firm wrote to 1,600 independent financial advisers informing them that it would not be marketing its own corporate-bond fund because it did not believe that the potential risks underlying corporate-bond funds had been clearly understood by advisers, let alone investors themselves — a statement which, apart from anything else, reveals a disturbing lack of faith in the abilities of IFAs to give sensible advice to their clients. The letter continued: "The savings and investment industry has suffered much unwelcome publicity recently over events which were not easily predictable — eg, home-income plans, pension transfers and derivative-based schemes — so we believe any scheme which is likely to be widely misunderstood should be avoided. Otherwise, there are bound to be tears before bedtime."

Investors may not realise, for instance, that preference shareholders can lose all their money if a company folds, it says, citing the fate of Barings prefs as an example. As high-yielding stocks mature, it may also be impossible for the investment managers to reinvest at the same yields if inflation and interest rates remain low. So, over the medium to longer term, not only may capital values fall, but so may income.

While basically bullish about the new funds, Philip Warland, director-general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, also singles out three potential areas of misunderstanding.

First, he says, a bond fund is not a deposit account. The price will fluctuate, unless there is a guaranteed fund. Second, high income now will almost always lead to lower total return over the long run. Third, although there is no single rule that says "high yield bad, low yield good", investors should make sure that they understand the reasons for a particularly high yield. This might be because the fund manager is particularly good, or that the fund is riskier than average. Alternatively, management charges may be subtracted from the capital rather than the income, leading to faster erosion of the underlying investment.

"These are all acceptable answers but, if you do not know what's going on, you may get an unexpected surprise," Mr Warland says.

Corporate-bond Peps are for "very, very timid people who will never ever be prepared to accept any kind of equity exposure," says Charles Fry, chief executive of Johnson Fry, the financial services group. In an ideal world, bond Peps would only ever be sold to the over-75s, he says — "Well, okay, 70 if you must, but you've got to remember a woman of 70 could easily live until she's 90, or even longer. Their investment isn't going to be worth very much in 20 years' time, is it? I'd rather know that my bread was consistently buttered than have jam today and stale crusts tomorrow." He adds: "Sheltering these things in Peps is a waste of the allowances because you get little or no benefit on the capital gains tax side. I think Peps should be used to shelter both capital gains and income from tax."

But, despite Mr Fry's reservations, the company is not planning to adopt the F&B stance and keep away from the market altogether. He says: "We tend to respond to an appetite, even if we'd rather it wasn't there in the first place. We're looking at one or two ideas, but they're in the very early stages of developement."

The main point here is, of course, that stockbrokers and other financial advisers can preach the importance of equity investment for long-term capital growth until they are blue in the face. But they cannot alter the fact that millions of investors just do not have the mentality to cope with stock market volatility.

These people are much happier lodging funds in low-yielding bank and building society accounts than venturing into the equity market, where lurks the potential for sleepless nights and panic attacks every time share prices go into reverse.

> ‘Corporate bond Peps are for very, very timid people’

Budget 1994: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, gives the go-ahead for the new-style Peps.
March 1995: The Inland Revenue publishes draft regulations.
May 12, 1995: Deadline for industry comments on draft regulations.
June 1995: The House of Commons ratifies regulations.
July 1995: Expected launch of first corporate-bond Peps.

Some believe the potential risks are not clearly understood by advisers let alone investors

NEW-STYLE PEPS

THE corporate bonds to be included in Peps are fixed-interest securities with known maturities. They are likely to appeal to traditional bank and building society depositors. Their income yield is determined primarily by prevailing interest rates, plus the creditworthiness of the issuer. If interest rates go up, the price of the bond will fall, and vice versa. The safer the issuer, the lower the yield. Also eligible for inclusion in the new-style Peps are:

■ **Eurosterling bonds:** The word Euro has nothing to do with Europe in this context. It simply means "outside". These bonds have the same characteristics as domestic bonds. They are issued in eurosterling purely because the issuing practices and tax treatment are more attractive. Many are issued by UK blue chips and a large number are listed on the London stock market.

■ **Fixed-rate convertibles:** These are corporate bonds that give the holder the opportunity to convert fixed-rate debt into shares.

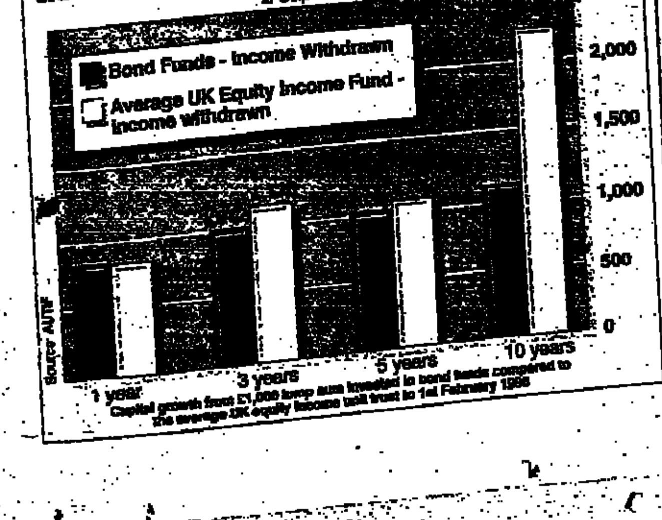
■ **Preference shares:** These pay dividends at a fixed rate. Holders take precedence over ordinary shareholders if the company gets into difficulties.

Who should buy corporate-bond Peps?

Risk-averse people who:
a) need additional income now to help to meet living expenses.
b) want to build up future income, perhaps to supplement a pension in retirement. The tax-free income from the Pep can be reinvested while they are working and earning. When they retire, the Pep manager can start paying the income into the investor's bank account.
c) want a higher income than shares can provide, but with greater growth prospects than those offered by bonds. These investors should consider Pepping convertibles, rather than ordinary corporate bonds. They offer many of the benefits of bonds but — in exchange for a lower yield — will also provide the possibility of some share-related capital growth.

Who should not buy corporate-bond Peps?

Savers who:
a) are willing to accept a reasonable degree of risk in return for better long-term prospects.
b) need to withdraw their capital at short notice and therefore run the risk of doing so in a falling market.



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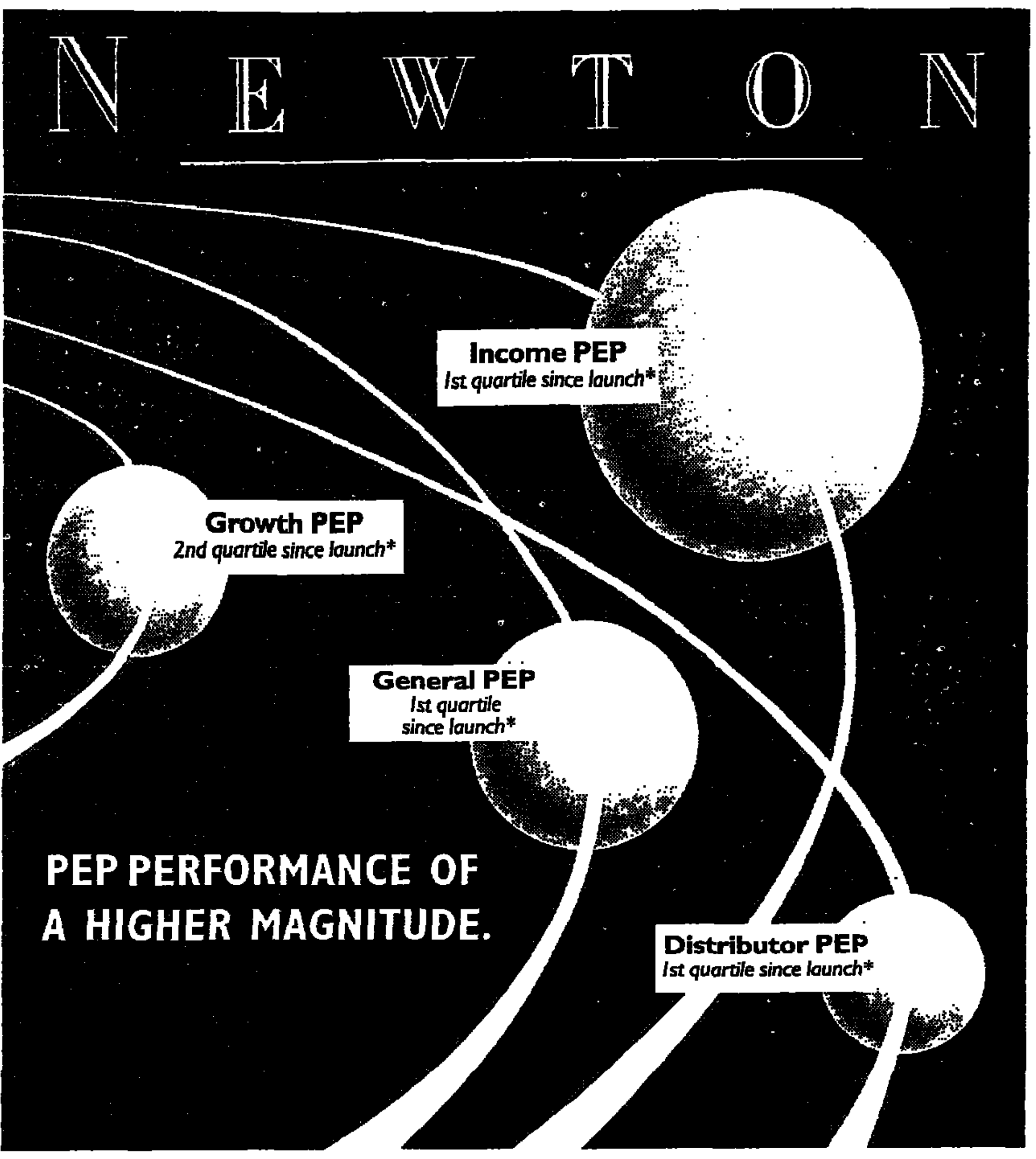

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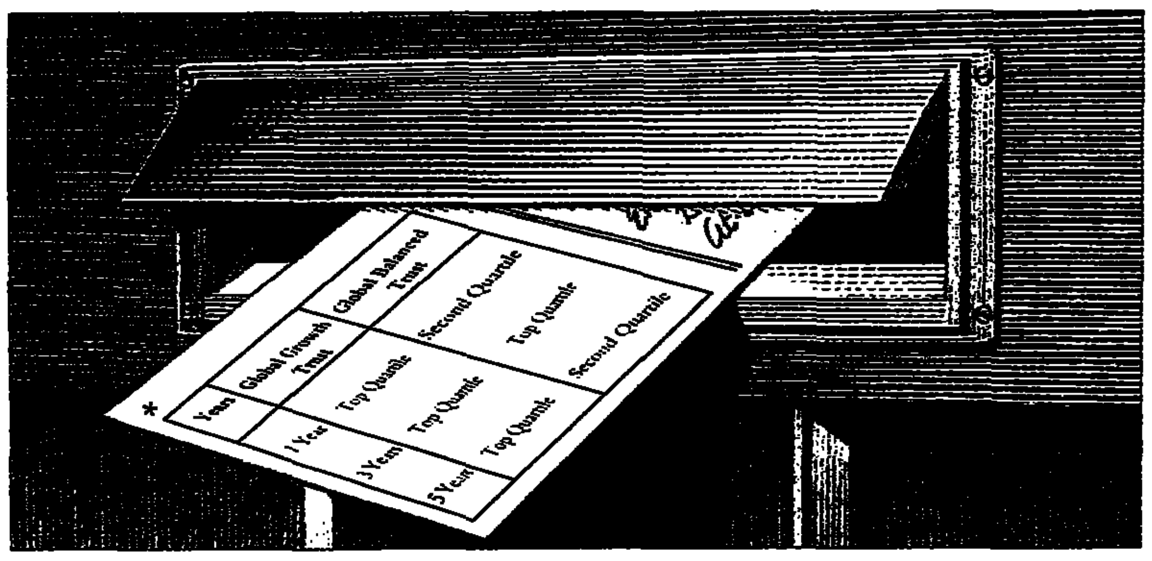

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Templeton

Helen Pridham examines foreign markets favoured by unit trust funds

Despite the devastation, the Kobe earthquake is expected to give the Japanese economy a boost in the long term

Land of the rising yen

Unit trusts have broadened the investment horizons of thousands who would otherwise have kept all their money in the UK market. Buying foreign shares is a complicated business so why not let the unit trust managers take the strain? However, a foreign unit trust remains something of an adventure, as performance data for these markets is not always readily available. Below we review the performance and prospects of some overseas markets. The tables, from Micropal, show the value, offer to bid, of £100 invested for one year, as at April 17; net income is reinvested.

During 1994, Japanese unit trusts produced the best overall results for UK investors recording average gains of 7.6 per cent. However, the Tokyo stock market had already started to turn down in the middle of last year as the recovery in the economy failed to proceed as had been expected.

This year also got off to a bad start with the Kobe earthquake, which slowed down economic recovery in the first quarter. Longer term, reconstruction of the devastated areas is expected to give the Japanese economy greater momentum. Increased public spending and demand for housing and related consumer durable goods should help to boost growth during 1995.

Nevertheless, the combined impact of the earthquake and the fallout from the Barings crisis led to sharp stock market falls. The strengthening yen has also depressed the Japanese market because it means the rate at which Japanese corporate profits are likely to grow is reduced. Consequently, those unit trusts based on derivatives that benefit when shares fall — the bear funds — currently lead the one-year sector performance table.

Ironically, Mercury's Japanese Equity Bull fund is also among the top performers in the sector, thanks to the appreciation of the yen, while other funds that have hedged their exposure to the currency have done less well.

However, the Japanese Government has recently unveiled an economic package designed to counter the strength of the yen and the squeeze on export earnings. Many unit trust groups now see better times ahead. In its latest investment commentary, Schroders points out that despite the difficult conditions in Japan "we are still forecasting positive profits growth in 1995 and 1996, in the latter case of over 50 per cent".

JAPAN

Top Five Funds	£
Mercury WT Japanese Equity Bear	127
Govett Japan Bear	120
Old Mutual Japan	92
Mercury WT Japanese Equity Bull	92
Prudential Japanese	92
Bottom Five Funds	
Baring Japan Sunrise	72
S&P Japan Smaller Companies	72
Dunedin Japan Smaller Cos	72
Five Arrows Japanese Smaller Cos	72
Sanwa Japanese Smaller Cos	70
Sector Average	84

Volatility under the spotlight

INVESTING in the world's smaller stock markets became fashionable during the early 1990s. Emerging markets unit trusts became "flavour of the month" and a clutch of new trusts were launched. Managers spoke of the exciting growth prospects but the flipside was the high risk involved. The past year has highlighted the higher risks and greater volatility to be expected from these funds.

Emerging markets funds can invest worldwide, but the two main areas for investment are Latin America and South-East Asia. Unit trusts with exposure to Latin America fared particularly badly when those markets plunged after the unexpected devaluation of the Mexican peso in December. Within a month, the Mexican stock market had fallen by more than 40 per cent, Brazil 27 per cent and Argentina 20 per cent.

Although the US Government stepped in with a rescue package to tide Mexico over, sentiment was badly damaged and investors were pulling out. There were fears that what had happened in Mexico would be repeated elsewhere in the region. However, Argentina acted quickly to head off a crisis of confidence in the Argentine peso and Brazil also started to introduce reforms. Although it appears that Latin America is going to be volatile for some time and overseas investors more cautious, some unit trust managers have started to dip their toes back in the water.

"Shares are now starting to look cheap and we may add slightly to our Brazilian and Mexican exposure, through small purchases of stock," says Schroders in its April investment commentary.

South-East Asian markets, which had performed exceptionally well in 1993, had already suffered a poor 1994 after the rise in US interest rates resulted in an outflow of US money back to America, before being further undermined by investor jitters about emerging markets generally after the Mexican crisis.

Other factors added to the uncertainty, notably the question of who will succeed China's Deng Xiaoping and the effect this will have on the region. The Barings crisis did not help local stock market confidence either. However, markets have recovered to push specialist Asian unit trust funds up the one-year performance table, and the future looks brighter. Investment experts at Fidelity point out: "US interest rates now seem to be peaking and this should remove one of the major negatives for the equity markets in the Asian region. Most of the bad news now seems to be discounted by markets, and investors should, in time, focus on the positive underlying fundamentals."

Those at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management say: "The region remains the world's main growth area, consistently producing 6-7 per cent GDP growth and corporate earnings growth in the mid-teens."

EMERGING MARKETS

Top Five Funds	£
Old Mutual Thailand	111
Old Mutual Emerging Asia	104
NM Singapore & Malaysian	104
HSBC Sing & Malay Growth	102
Fidelity ASEAN	102
Bottom Five Funds	
Mercury Emerging Markets	76
Framlington Emerging Markets	76
Martin Currie Emerging Markets	74
Abtrust Emerging Markets	70
Gartmore Emerging Markets	70
Sector Average	91

Over the hurdles

FOUR years of strong economic growth and increasing corporate profits made the US stock market one of the better performers in 1994.

At the same time, the buoyant economic conditions also gave rise to fears of a resurgence in US inflation, which unsettled world markets generally last year. Interest rates were raised by the US Federal Reserve to slow the economy and control inflation.

Initially, markets were unconvinced that these measures were having the desired effect, but since the start of this year the US market has risen steadily as investors anticipated an end to rate rises and a "soft landing" for the economy — moderate economic growth combined with low inflation.

The market has also been boosted by US investors repatriating money from emerging markets, though the one-year unit trust performance tables suggest that the recovery has not yet been sufficient for most UK unit trust investors. The average North American fund is showing a 5 per cent loss over 12 months.

Analysts differ over what happens next, but experts at Fidelity, the unit trust manager, takes a positive view, saying "recent economic statistics have been mixed, but we believe that the economy will slow over coming months and that earnings growth, although off its peak, remains attractive".

NORTH AMERICA

Top Five Funds	£
Hill Samuel US Smaller Cos	109
Mercury WT US Currency Bear	107
Lazard North American Growth	107
PM North American Growth	105
Prudential North American	105
Bottom Five Funds	
Govett US Bear	80
BG America	79
Jupiter American Cap	78
S&W Canadian	75
Beckman Bio-Tech	71
Sector Average	95

Mark and franc in focus

INVESTMENT experts at Mercury Asset Management said the reason why the mark is so highly valued is that "the Bundesbank has continued to take an aggressive line against the inflationary consequences of reunification, and its temporary budget deficit problems seem to be abating."

However, the strength of the mark has been less good for its stock market because it makes the output of manufacturing companies, which form the backbone of the German economy, less competitive.

In France, investors are awaiting the outcome of the presidential election. A win by Jacques Chirac now seems more likely than it did a couple of months ago when Edouard Balladur, Prime Minister, was front-runner, but the outcome is far from certain.

Although M Chirac is perceived to be more likely to tone down the policy of pegging the franc to the mark that has led to high real French interest rates, he has said that he will keep the franc in the exchange-rate mechanism.

But he has also indicated higher government spending that could lead to pressure on the franc. This may lead him to have to increase interest rates rather than cut them.

EUROPE

Top Five Funds	£
Mercury WT Euro Equity Bear	126
Govett European Bear	110
Gartmore Euro Select Opps	103
FP European Growth	102
KB European Special	101
Bottom Five Funds	
Fidelity European Income	86
BG Europe	85
BG European Smaller Cost	85
TSB European	84
GT Germany	83
Sector Average	93

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Garland Euro	200.90	212.60	+0.40	0.58
Garland Expl Bal	111.30	115.30	+3.00	2.85
Garland Gilt	73.06	76.15	+0.07	5.27
Garland Japan	160.00	169.30	+3.00	...
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General Acc	542.00	576.70†	-0.50	2.90
General Inc	472.80	502.80†	-0.40	2.90
UK Growth Acc	364.00	387.30†	-0.80	3.03
UK Growth Inc	245.80	261.50†	-0.50	3.03
Higher Inc Acc	675.10	718.20†	+1.30	4.22
Higher Inc Inc	383.10	407.60†	+0.70	4.22
Gilt/F Int Acc	188.20	190.80†	+0.10	5.55
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	88.84	93.84†	-0.02	5.80
Nth America	264.60	281.50†	-6.80	
Europe	274.10	291.60†	+1.50	1.00
Far East	72.34	78.88	-0.17	0.11
Brit Fortuna Acc	101.70	108.20†	+0.10	4.90
Brit Fortuna Inc	72.87	77.52†	+0.06	4.90
Global Opps	84.84	90.28	+0.15	0.40
Balanced Acc	54.28	57.75†	+0.05	3.17
Balanced Inc	52.61	55.97†	+0.07	3.17
Japan Acc	...	...		...
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
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High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	127.50	135.20†	+0.10	7.39
High Inc Equity	150.50	160.50†	+0.40	4.64
Worldwide Bond	275.50	292.20	-0.20	4.45
Capital Growth				
American Growth	276.40	295.90	-4.60	[illegible]
Asian Pacific	295.70	312.40	-2.50	
Assets & Earnings	257.20	273.60	-0.40	3.01
Commodity & Energy	99.17	105.50†	-0.60	.12
Euro Capital Inc	131.90	141.10†	+0.40	.49
(Accum Units)	141.50	151.30	+0.30	.50
General	231.70	246.60	+0.80	2.21
Japan	118.70	127.80	+1.80	
Mastertrust	137.40	147.00	+0.40	1.93
UK Growth Dist	112.30	120.80†	+0.40	2.21
US Emerging Cos	128.20	136.40	-3.50	
Income & Growth	382.70	407.70	-0.50	3.07
Ethical	65.62	70.02	+0.36	3.13
International	110.10	117.10		.90
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Amer Inc & Growth	44.46	46.17†	-0.13	0.82
Cash	50.30	50.30†	+0.04	5.81
Emerging Mkts	83.86	87.52	+0.79	0.05
European	110.10	114.90	+0.20	...
Exempt	650.70	£10.07†	+3.00	7.85
Extra Income	44.23	47.36†	+0.08	8.97
Far East Emg Eco	105.40	111.90	-0.70	0.56
Fixed Interest	21.86	22.95†	+0.08	9.01
Fund Inv Tst	152.80	160.80†	-0.30	1.05
Japan	184.30	193.60	+2.50	
Latin American	46.09	48.28	+1.24	1.01
Pacific	69.85	73.77†	-0.28	0.36
Property Share	59.07	62.00	-0.51	2.30
UK Emerging Cos	60.32	63.31	+0.20	1.96
UK Growth	43.06	45.85†	-0.09	2.57
Abs World Port	71.14	72.31	-0.25	2.28
Ethical	60.12	63.71	+0.25	2.79
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	49.20	49.29†	+0.01	7.61

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0171 392 3000				
UK Growth Tst	62.32	66.29	-0.14	3.00
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	839.46	842.94	...	4.87
Accum	627.51	627.62		
Fixed Int Inc	119.75	120.05	...	8.50
Fixed Int Acc	198.20	198.58		...
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 637 7667				
Intl Growth	110.00	120.72	+0.25	
UK Income	102.88	112.21	-0.82	5.300
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Buckmaster Intl	78.71	81.43	-0.73	1.49
Buck Bio-Tech	25.77	27.32	-0.64	
Accm Ethical Tst	143.82	156.66	-5.00	0.71
City Em Mkts	69.04	71.44†	-0.25	1.97
City Fin America	86.86	91.23†	-1.00	
City Fin Intl	74.84	79.59†	-1.37	0.94
City Fin Japan	169.66	177.86	+2.33	
Fraser Hse Cap	287.38	289.98	-1.23	1.70
Fraser Hse Inc	186.88	204.13	-1.58	4.13
Brokley Wld Gth	118.59	125.70†	+0.41	...
Falconet Cap Gtr	121.82	128.42	-0.20	...
Rhinehold Intl	143.24	150.42	-0.49	
City Fin Ptflo Inc	61.82	58.10	-0.46	4.39
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.88	54.83	+0.11	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	58.02	62.06	-1.00	
Atlas Mngd Gwth	36.92	39.42	+0.22	0.59
Dragon Growth	61.85	66.15	-0.16	0.84
Equity High Inc	80.58	85.70	+0.07	4.23
(Accum Units)	109.16	116.13	+0.10	4.23
European Gwth	50.44	53.66	+0.34	1.57
Evergreen	26.57	28.42	-0.15	...
General Equity	82.28	87.07	-0.11	2.50
Japan Growth	51.73	55.33	+0.85	
Portfolio Gwth	48.85	52.82	-0.02	2.03
Pac Sm Cos Inc	29.13	30.99	+0.14	1.65
Overseas Units	30.28	32.19	+0.14	1.65
Retirement Inc	25.12	26.72	+0.11	5.98
Special Sits	35.85	38.20	+0.32	2.22
UK & Overseas	46.92	49.92	+0.12	1.41
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 890 000				
Capital	67.36	71.40	-0.19	2.07
Income	60.65	64.30	-0.10	4.10
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	151.59	161.27†	-0.33	5.45
Fixed & Convertible	37.70	40.20†	-0.14	7.46
Monthly Inc Plus	46.22	49.17†	-0.04	9.11
Preference Share	44.35	47.18†	-0.02	8.00
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	116.57	124.01†	-1.20	6.55
Managed Fund	65.83	70.05†	+0.19	2.23
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	36.14	38.46†	+0.21	2.09
(Accum Units)	42.05	44.73†	+0.22	2.09
UK & General	77.05	80.97†	-0.75	3.18
(Accum Units)	97.73	103.95†	-0.95	3.18
UK Growth	142.52	151.72†	-0.63	2.78
International Growth Funds				

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MOPS

Schulz ready and able to spring world heavyweight championship upset

Foreman must beware the underdog

From David Miller
in Las Vegas

IT IS 57 years since a German was last involved in a heavyweight world championship upset. He lost. It could happen again here tonight, but with a victory. There are only a few in this garish gambling citadel of self-indulgence who believe it possible. I am one of them. Put another way, I think that someone may have made a $50 million error.

This is because I am one of a small handful to have seen Axel Schulz, 27, from Frankfurt-on-Oder, in private sparring sessions with James "Bonecrusher" Smith, the former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion, who is now 42. Smith, who has been paid $5,000 (£3,300) a week for his services, was gaspingly grateful when Manfred Wolker, Schulz's trainer and manager, called a halt.

The upset, and thereby the mistake, is that Schulz, an 8-1 *outsider, may rob George* Foreman, 46, of his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title and the prospect of a $100 million showdown later this year with Mike Tyson. There is the suspicion that Bob Arum, the Top Rank promoter who matched Foreman for his first defence with Schulz, is unaware how much the challenger has improved since losing the re-match of a European championship bout against Henry Akinwande, of Great Britain, in 1993.

When Max Schmeling *fought the return in 1938* against Joe Louis, who had suffered his first professional defeat at Schmeling's hands *two years earlier, the German* was humiliated — knocked out and then his ribs broken by another punch before he slumped to the canvas.

While Schulz may not similarly humiliate Foreman, he may embarrass the American press that has ignored his credentials while consuming, unquestioningly, Foreman's unending pulpit pulp of self-proclamation. One objective assessor of Foreman's form, who has recently seen him shadow boxing — seriously in the ring rather than flippantly behind a microphone — observed: "They were both slow."

Foreman became the oldest, grandfather, heavyweight champion (one of four) when outclassed for nine rounds by Michael Moorer, the holder of *IBF and WBA titles, who then* dropped his guard in the tenth, allowing Foreman a soft knockout. While Foreman, the lay *preacher with three* divorces and a still-agile tongue, continues to sing more like George Formby than a heavyweight champion, the little-known Schulz, unranked by any of the governing bodies, has been developing his talent.

Foreman points out Riddick Bowe, who was in the audience at the weigh-in, to Schulz, his challenger, before their contest in Las Vegas

Angelo Dundee, the cornerman for Muhammed Ali who *has had 13 champions, saw* Schulz as a youngster and is impressed by the increase in upper body size. Yesterday, *Schulz weighed-in at 15st 11lb* to Foreman's 18st 4lb.

"But can he push George?" Dundee asked. "He's very quick, but has he the legs? It'll be a good fight early on, but George will out-strong him, probably win in six or seven."

Maybe: yet, having seen Schulz leave Smith groping for air with his left jab and counter-punching, I am not convinced that Foreman's 19 extra years can withstand *Schulz's power and mobility,* never mind that Foreman creditably went the distance before losing to Evander *Holeyfield four years ago.* Foreman may suddenly discover that he has a far more serious bout tonight than he supposed when surrendering the WBA title for preferring to meet Schulz instead of a mandatory defence against Tony Tucker.

Schulz is a product of the old *East* German system, schooled in the ASK Vorwärts army club and trained by Wolker, the Olympic welter*weight champion of 1968.* Wolker has developed his man and has made detailed video analysis of Foreman. Schulz *beat Smith over ten rounds* last September and employs him here in training because of the similarity with Foreman in size.

As Butch Lewis, one of the promoters who has attempted to lure Tyson away from Don King, observed at the weigh-in: "Old Father Time can jump on Foreman's shoulders at any moment, maybe as he climbs the ropes into the ring."

The sparring rounds with *Smith were at Johnny Tocco's* legendary Ringside Gym in downtown Las Vegas. Tocco, 85 in July, has worked with *more champions than anyone* alive and has been coaching Schulz for the past fortnight.

"Schulz must stick-and-run, jab and go," Tocco said. "He mustn't stand square in front of George, like Moorer did in the tenth. He must always move to his right, away from George's right hand. If he stays out of trouble for five or six rounds, he can certainly win if he's serious. This kid can fight."

Foreman, with three inches' height advantage, is traditionally strong against shorter men, but, if Schulz fights *intelligently, Foreman should* not be able to lay a hand on him. Seldom in the heavyweight division has a rank outsider had such a chance to become a millionaire overnight.

Spectacular finish gives Woosnam little to celebrate

From Mel Webb in Cannes

YESTERDAY was to be the day that Ian Woosnam made his big move for the top of the leaderboard in the Cannes Open at Royal Mougins. Nothing was more certain than that he would follow his first-round 70 with something spectacular. He did, too, if a calamity-strewn eight on the last can be called spectacular.

To be fair, Woosnam, the defending champion, did have some sort of excuse as the wind blew and the rain fell on the Côte d'Azur: he finished with his body all aching and racked with pain from a back injury, a *burden he has suffered* for several years.

True to type, however, honest-to-goodness Woosnam did *not make excuses,* just mentioned it in passing as a possible reason for his last-hole embarrassment, which left him with a 73 and a total of 143, one over par.

The story of Woosnam's travails on the home hole started with his second shot after he had hit a decent enough drive. Ambitiously, he drew out a three-wood in an ill-fated attempt to hit the green with his second, and could do no better than put his ball into the lake which puts a daunting collar around the *front and left side of the green.*

He came out under penalty for three and put his fourth into a bunker at the back of the green. His attempted recovery initially looked pretty good, but it did not draw to an agonised halt until it had travelled 60 feet past the pin. He putted 15 feet beyond the hole for six and two more putts left him musing that even the good and the great can play like dunces at times.

Woosnam's woes really started early in the round, although he still managed to birdie the 5th and 6th. His shoulder started aching on the 7th, which he bogeyed, and it was not long before the pain *had radiated down his back.*

"I couldn't get through the ball," he said. "I never really hit a good shot after that. I was *stupid to aim for the green* with my second — I should never have taken it on."

Woosnam's multiple gaffes *meant that for the second day* running the 18th green and the water that protects it had claimed a high-profile victim. On Thursday, Colin Montgomerie, who is partnering Woosnam in the Perrier four-ball tournament in Paris next week, putted clean across the green *and into the water.*

Woosnam watched Montgomerie's folly from the balcony of his nearby villa and could have been forgiven for indulging in a small smile. Montgomerie could have got his own back yesterday, but he had long since completed a low-key 70 and returned to the sanctuary of his hotel room by the time Woosnam trudged on to the last green.

It would be easy to dismiss Woosnam and Montgomerie from possible contention for *the title,* but they have a taste for golf in these parts. Indeed, Montgomerie can never be discounted and, injured or not, neither can Woosnam, who was 14 shots off the lead at one stage in the second round last year and beat Montgomerie into second place by five shots. Even so, they will have to play some dramatic golf in the next two days to challenge the slightly unlikely supremacy of Andre Bossert, the South African-born Swiss, who had a 67 for a total of 132, ten under par, to lead by two shots. His nearest pursuers were Jean Van de Velde and Oyvind Rojhan, the little-known Norwegian, with Andrew Coltart and David Gilford a shot behind.

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated
LEADING EARLY SCORES: 132: A Bossert (Switz) 65, 67. 134: J Van de Velde (Fr) 64, 70; O Rojahn (Nor) 67, 67. 135: A Coltart 66, 69; D Gilford 70, 65. 136: O Sellberg (Swe) 66, 70; M Gronberg (Swe) 64, 72; J Robson 67, 69; D Hospital (Sp) 66, 70. 137: R Boxall 67, 70; A Hunter 68, 69. 138: *C Montgomerie* 68, 70; R Chapman 68, 70; P Hedblom (Swe) 69, 69; I Garrido (Sp) 69, 69; A Binaghi (It) 67, 71; B Drummond 70, 68. 139: N Fasth (Swe) 67, 72. 140: E Canonica (It) 69, 71; P Curry 70, 70; I Woosnam 67, 73; I Palmer (SA) 68, 72; C Rocca (It) 74, 66; M Miller 70, 70.

None of the above had an eight, and none, so far as it is possible to tell, have wonky backs. Most of them, however, will be aware this morning of a small, determined Welshman who, on this day of April showers, *became too closely* acquainted with both.

☐ Severiano Ballesteros has split with Billy Foster, his caddie *for the past 4½ years.* Their last tournament together was the Masters at Augusta. No reason has been given beyond a mutual agreement that a change would be good for them both.

O'Sullivan finds form

By Phil Yates

A SEQUENCE of nine frames without reply at the Crucible Theatre yesterday helped Ronnie O'Sullivan to remain on course to become the youngest winner of the Embassy world snooker championship.

O'Sullivan, 19, recovered from an 8-4 deficit midway through the second session on *Thursday to defeat Darren* Morgan 13-8. He will play Stephen Hendry, the holder, in the quarter-finals.

Even though Morgan entered the deciding session level at 8-8, he wore the look of someone who felt the fates had conspired against him. In the fourteenth frame, with Morgan 8-5 ahead and enjoying a 56-0 advantage, a spectator collapsed in the auditorium. Play was halted for a few minutes; when it resumed, the Welshman missed a relatively simple red.

Reds of a *similarly* elementary nature also eluded Morgan in each of the first two frames yesterday when he *occupied scoring positions of* considerable potential. He was thoroughly demoralised when O'Sullivan required only 35 minutes to move from 8-8 to 11-8 with breaks of 64, 73 and 53. O'Sullivan then took the next two frames.

O'Sullivan, who is often acutely self-critical, said: "I don't know how I can play so *badly and still be in the* tournament. At 8-4 down, I thought I was out. I don't know what's happening. I played better when I was 12."

DETAILS

SECOND ROUND: Results: S Hendry (Scot) bt A Drago (Malta) 13-6; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 13-8. Latest positions: G Wilkinson (Eng) leads T Griffiths (Wales) 9-6; A Hicks (Eng) leads W Thorne (Eng) 6-2

Clearly, O'Sullivan was not taking into account the effects of a bout of *tonsillitis* from which he has only just recovered.

After his 13-6 defeat of Tony *Drago, Hendry is within one* victory of equalling the record for consecutive match wins at the Crucible, set by Steve Davis between the first round of the 1987 championship and his semi-final elimination in *1990. Hendry, unbeaten in 17* matches since losing 13-11 to Steve James in the quarter-finals four years ago, built an *11-5 lead seemingly without* effort. A 66 break, Hendry's ninth half-century contribution of the contest, put him 12-5 ahead and Drago *merely* delayed the outcome by winning the eighteenth frame.

Drago, who has lost all nine of his meetings with Hendry, believes that the defending champion is justifiably favourite for the £190,000 first prize. "Whenever Stephen's left in a tournament, he's the man to beat as far as I'm concerned, purely because of his record — especially here," Drago said.

Hendry, while admitting that motivation had been missing towards the end of the match, was "generally happy" *with his performance.*

Thomson tunes up at Cornbury trials

By Jenny MacArthur

MARY THOMSON, one of the favourites for the Badminton Horse Trials next month, will complete her preparation *in the* Pedigree Chum Cornbury Horse Trials in Oxfordshire this weekend.

Thomson, a team gold med*al-winner at the world* championships in The Hague last year, is resting King William, her 1992 Badminton winner, and *riding* her other Badminton entries, Star Appeal, a winner at Brigstock last weekend, and King Kong, her Burghley runner-up.

"I'm definitely running King William at Badminton," Thomson said yesterday, "and I shall decide on my second ride after Cornbury."

King Kong has become wary of water since Burghley last September, and Thomson, who rides for the Frizzell Team, is waiting to see how he negotiates the jump into water this weekend.

With ten days to go before Badminton, the special advanced event at Cornbury has attracted nearly 100 runners, all of whom are entered for *Badminton. These* include Mark Todd, the New Zealand double Olympic champion, with his Belton winners, Just an Ace *and* Bertie Blunt, Andrew Nicholson, his compatriot, with Cartoon II, William Fox-Pitt, with Chaka, the *winner of Burghley, and the* other team gold medal-winners from The Hague: Karen Dixon, with Hot Property and Too Smart, Kristina Gifford, with General Jock, and Charlotte Bathe, with The Cool Customer.

More than 500 horses are competing this weekend. The novice cross country is today; the advanced sections are tomorrow. Mike Etherington-Smith, the designer, has made the 24-fence course more difficult this year in deference to the high-quality field that the event attracts.

Foster too slow for final

By Craig Lord

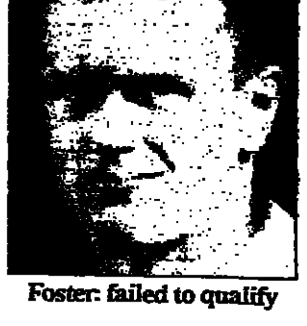
AS WEALTH among Great Britain's *swimmers* goes, the riches of Mark Foster are nothing short of embarrassing. World Cup titles, world records and a world short-course title drew the publicity and expensive sports car, while a 6ft 5in frame, boyish good looks and charm complete the picture of a professional sportsman at his peak.

Yet there was self-inflicted disaster yesterday as he failed *to make the final of the* 100 metres freestyle, and thus the national team sprint relay for the European championships, in Vienna, in August.

Dave Haller, his coach, likened Foster's fate to the inconceivable scenario of Linford Christie failing to make the grade for a 4 x 100 metres athletics relay. Foster had rolled up at Ponds Forge pool in Sheffield too late to post his entry card by the 8am deadline. Organisers obligingly found him a lane in a slow heat. He cruised to victory, but *the time, 51.85sec, placed him* ninth, one place beyond the final of eight.

Haller said: "I nearly decked him. He's had a roasting from me. I've calmed down a bit now, but don't be suprised if he appears with a black eye and a broken nose. You'll certainly see a very different man for the 50 metres."

Foster was contrite, agreeing with Haller that "every race is about preparing for the big one". "I believe he can be one of the world's finest 100-metre swimmers," his coach said.


Foster: failed to qualify

"If it ever gets through my thick skull that I have to treat everything more seriously, this will serve as a useful lesson," Foster, 24, said.

Nicholas Shackell, of Millfield, won the final in 50.91sec, slower than Foster's best, but equal to his own. The three who followed him were not *fast* enough to reach the necessary qualifying standard for the relay.

Graeme Smith produced the *finest effort* of the day. Leading from the blocks, the Anglo-Scot, who trains with Dave Calleja at Stockport *Metro, was in full control for* all 30 lengths of the 1,500 metres freestyle. His time of 15min 18.35sec left him 13 seconds ahead of Paul Palmer and Ian Wilson.

Kathy Osher, Susan Rolph, Helen Slatter, Sarah Hardcastle and David Warren have all qualified for Vienna.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Fourth round: Fremantle Dockers 94 (12-22) bt Geelong 75 (11-9)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs: Quarter-final, third leg: London Towers 91 Leopards 73 (London Towers win series 2-1).

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Charlotte 86 New York 91; Chicago 120 Detroit 115; Dallas 111 San Antonio 112; Portland 111 LA Lakers 97; Seattle 111 Houston 101; Golden State 98 Sacramento 112

CRICKET

Warwickshire v England A

Warwickshire: First Innings 240

Second Innings

A J Moles c Gallian b Ilott	13
R G Twose c Ramprakash b Patel	25
T L *Penney* lbw b Patel	14
D P Ostler c Gallian b Patel	2
G Welch b Cork	2
*D A Reeve not out	77
†K J Piper c Cork b Patel	0
D R Brown c sub b Cork	3
N M K Smith b Cork	19
G C Small c Gallian b Cork	12
A A Donald c and b Stemp	33
Extras (lb 6)	6
Total	205

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-52, 3-54, 4-57, 5-59, 6-61, 7-74, 8-94, 9-130.

BOWLING: Ilott 17-5-68-1; Chapple 2-0-6-0; Patel 32-12-58-4; Cork 21-6-53-4; Stemp 7-5-4-1

England A: First Innings 502 (A P Wells 178, M R Ramprakash 79, M C Ilott 60, M M Patel 55, P A Nixon 51 ret hurt)

England A won by an innings and 58 runs

Combined Universities v Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire

A Fordham c Macmillan b Renshaw	5
M B Loye c Batty b Edwards	10
R J Bailey c Steer b Edwards	25
*A J Lamb retired not out	101
K M Curran run out	1
†R J Warren c Batty b Rashid	7
D J Capel run out	11
A L Penberthy not out	11
J G Hughes not out	12
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 8, nb 12)	25
Total (6 wkts, 55 overs)	269

N A Mallender and J P Taylor did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-23, 3-182, 4-207, 5-241, 6-242.

BOWLING: Renshaw 11-2-47-1; Edwards 11-2-54-2; Killeen 11-0-34-0; Rashid 11-1-57-1; Macmillan 8-1-47-0; Pearce 3-0-25-0

Combined Universities

*G I Macmillan lbw b Taylor	10
M T E Peirce c Warren b Curran	40
I G S Steer run out	40
K R Spiring lbw b Capel	37
M Harvey b Taylor	69
G Khan c Fordham b Hughes	7
†J N Batty c Warren b Hughes	8
U Rashid c Lamb b Hughes	4
N Killeen not out	16
A Edwards not out	1
Extras (b 5, lb 8, w 14, nb 4)	31
Total (8 wkts, 55 overs)	263

S J Renshaw did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-106, 3-119, 4-184, 5-195, 6-222, 7-238, 8-260.

BOWLING: Taylor 8-0-31-2; Hughes 9-0-51-3; Curran 11-0-51-1; Mallender 7-0-38-0; Bailey 7-2-24-0; Capel 7-0-36-1; Penberthy *6-0-29-0*

Umpires: N T Plews and P Adams

Northants won by six runs

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three): Uxbridge: Middlesex 317-7 dec (T Radford 155, K P Dutch 72) and 200-0 dec (J Pooley 108 not out, T Radford 83 not out). Glamorgan 300-8 dec (A Roseberry 86, C Mulraine 70, A Shaw 51 not out) and 272-3 (A Dalton 125, A Roseberry 57). Glamorgan won by 7 wkts

BOXING

MELBOURNE: IBO super-middleweight championship: R Thornberry (Aus) bt R Carr (Aus) rsc 8th rd.

FOOTBALL

Late results from Thursday

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP, semi-final, second leg: Chelsea 3 Real Zaragoza 1 (Zaragoza won 4-3 on agg). Sampdoria 3 Arsenal 2 (agg 5-5; Arsenal won 3-2 on pens)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn 2 Crystal Palace 1

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Kilmarnock 0 Rangers 1.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Postponed: Dover v Woking.

UNIBOND NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Spennymoor 1 Hyde 1. First division: Bamber Bridge 1 Blyth Spartans 0

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Redditch 0 Forest Green 1; Tamworth 4 Bilston 0. Southern division: Tonbridge AFC 1 Fareham 2

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: *Stoke 1 Manchester Utd 0.* Second division: Grimsby 2 Preston 1; Sheffield Wednesday 2 Mansfield 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Charlton 2 Brighton 2; Swindon 1 Bristol Rovers 0

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws 2 Ton Pentre 1

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Chesham 1 Marlow 1. First division: Boreham Wood 2 Bognor Regis 0. Second division: Banstead 1 Thame 2; Malden Vale 0 Windsor and Eton 2. Third division: Harefield 3 Clapton 0; Hertford 0 Camberley 2; Southall 0 Horsham 2.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Distillery 0 Ards 3

ENGLISH SCHOOLS: Isle of Wight Festival: Isle of Wight 2 Coventry 6; Brierley Hill and Dudley 2 Bury 2; Luton 0 Leeds 6; Bradford 0 Plymouth 3; Dacorum 1 Vale of White Horse 0; East Cornwall 1 Oxford 3; Barking 7 Spen Valley 1; Havant 1 Doncaster 2; Manchester 5 Peterborough 2; Huntingdon 1 Wirral 1; East Berkshire 1 Bishop Auckland 2; Gravesham 1 Mid Oxfordshire 2; Cambridge 0 Hull 2; Gosport and Fareham 1 Wellingborough 0. Inter-county: Merseyside A 1 Hampshire A 1; Kent A 4 Suffolk 0; Lincolnshire 3 Surrey A 5; Bedfordshire 1 Cheshire 2; Northumberland B 3 Isle Of Man 1; Essex B 4 Shropshire B 1; West Midlands 2 Northumberland A 2; Northamptonshire 0 Essex A 3; Dorset 2 Shropshire A 3; Humberside 1 Independent Schools 1; Worcestershire 3 North Yorkshire 1; Hampshire B 1 Surrey B 1

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: RTM Newcastle 0 Bedlington 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Elmore 2 Mangotsfield 2.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Senior first division: Old Tiffinians 1 Old Tenisonians 2. Senior third division: Chorleywood 0 Latymer 3

SKOL MIDLAND FOOTBALL COMBINATION: First division: Dudley Sports 3 Kings Norton Ex Serv 1; G P T (Coventry) 2 Monica Star 1; Kenilworth 1 Massey Ferguson 1; Polesworth N W 0 Sphinx 3.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Ipswich 1 Millwall 0

GOLF

GREATER GREENSBORO OPEN: North Carolina: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65: V Singh (Fiji), B Faxon, S Lowery. 66: D Love. 67: D Edwards, M Heinen, H Sutton, S Simpson. 68: L Clements, K Triplett, C Byrum, C DiMarco, K Perry, H Twitty, T Tolles, P Bates, P Blackmar, B Burns, S Stricker, D Peoples, M Calcavecchia, R Black, T Dodds (Namibia). Other scores: 69: D Feherty (N Ire). 70: J Parnevik (Swe), B Ogle (Aus). 71: S Rintoul (Aus). 72: C Parry (Aus). 73: S Elkington (Aus), F Allem (SA). 74: G Waite (NZ)

HOCKEY

OLTON: Inter-league play-offs: Pool A: Olton and West Warwickshire 0 Blueharts 1; Bath Buccaneers 2 Whitchurch 4. Pool B: City of Portsmouth 1 Crostyx 2; Norton 1 High Wycombe 1.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England under-21 4 Combined Services 1.

ICE HOCKEY

BRATISLAVA: World championships: Latvia 8 Great Britain 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 1 New Jersey 0; NY Rangers 3 Hartford 2; Ottawa 5 Boston 6; Philadelphia 2 NY Islanders 1; Tampa Bay 5 Quebec 2; Vancouver 2 Calgary 2 (OT)

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British Open doubles championship: Quarter-finals: W Boone and T Cockroft bt J Beaumont and M Brooks 15-6, 15-6, 15-10, 15-12; R Wakely and G Barker bt A Lyons and D Watkins 15-4, 15-8, 15-0, 15-7

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Featherstone Rovers 32 Widnes 20; Oldham 10 Castleford 18.

WINFIELD CUP: Brisbane Broncos 13 Sydney Bulldogs 8.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Under-16: Wales A 7 England A 23.

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Optrex European championship trials: Men: 100m freestyle: 1, N Shackell (Millfield) 50.91sec; 2, A Ripley (City of Sheffield) 51.02; 3, M Carl (*Redbridge Borough*), 51.18. 200m medley: 1, D Warren (City of Leeds) 2:05.25; 2, J Hickman (Stockport Metro) 2:05.32; 3, F Walker (City of Glasgow) 2:06.29. 1500m freestyle: 1, G Smith (Stockport Metro) 15:18.35; 2, P Palmer (City of Lincoln Pentaqua) 15:31.46; 3, I Wilson (City of Leeds) 15:32.60. Women: 50m freestyle: 1, S Rolph (City of Newcastle) 26.21; 2, K Pickering (Ipswich) 26.46; 3, A Sheppard (City of Glasgow) 26.71. 800m freestyle: 1, S Hardcastle (Bracknell) 8:53.74; 2, N Crosbie (Warrington Warriors) 9:01.46; 3, P Wood (Hillingdon Borough), 9:01.74. 200m backstroke: 1, K Osher (Ealing) 2:14.98; 2, J Deakins (City of Coventry) 2:15.62; 3, E Tattam (Portsmouth Northsea) 2:18.14. 200m butterfly: 1, H Slatter (Warrington Warriors), 2:16.21; 2, A Bennett (Nova Centurion) 2:17.22; 3, M Pedder (Portsmouth Northsea), 2:19.60.

TENNIS

NICE: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: *M Rosset (Swiz)* bt M Woodforde (Aus) 7-6, 6-2; A Costa (Sp) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-3, 1-6, 6-0; A Medvedev (Ukr) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-3, 6-2.

HONG KONG: Men's tournament: Second round: M Chang (US) bt A Radulescu (Ger) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; J Courier (US) bt J Stark (US) 7-5, 6-1; J Apell (Swe) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-7, 6-3, 6-3; A Volkov (Russ) bt T Ho (US) 5-7, 7-5, 6-4; K Carlsen (Den) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 6-4, 2-6, 7-6; W Ferreira (SA) bt J Tarango (US) 6-4, 6-3. Quarter-finals: Chang bt Carlsen 6-3, 6-2; Apell bt Ferreira 3-6, 7-6, 7-6; Courier bt Volkov 5-7, 6-2, 6-3; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt T Enqvist 6-4, 6-4.

FEDERATION CUP: Metz: World group: First round: France level with South Africa 1-1 (France names first): J Halard lost to A Coetzer 6-2, 6-4; M Pierce bt J Kruger 6-4, 6-3. La Manga: Europe-Africa: Quarter-finals: Czech Republic 3 Slovenia 0 (Czech Republic names first): H Sukova bt B Mulej 1-6, 6-4, 7-5; J Novotna bt T Krizan 6-0, 7-5; R Bobkova and P Langrova bt T Jezernik and Krizan 6-4, 6-4). Belorussia 2 Russia 1 (Belo names first: T Ignatieva lost to E Maniokova 6-7, 7-5, 9-8; N Zvereva bt E Likhovtseva 6-2, 6-4; Zvereva and Ignatieva bt Maniokova and Makarova 6-2, 6-0). Hungary 2 Latvia 1 (Hungary names first: P Mandula bt U Bushevica 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; A Temesvari bt L Neiland 6-4, 7-6; Mandula and Temesvari lost to A Blumberga and Bushevica 6-7, 5-7). Belgium 3 Romania 0 (Belgium names first: L Courtois bt C Cristea 7-6, 6-3; S Appelmans bt R Dragomir 6-4, 6-3; E Callens and N Feber bt C Cristea and R Dragomir 6-4, 6-3). Semi-finals: Czech Republic 3 Belorussia 0 (Czech Republic names first): H Sukova bt T Ignatieva 6-4, 6-7, 6-3; J Novotna bt N Zvereva 0-6, 7-5, 6-4; R Bobkova and P Langrova bt *M Stets and V Zhukovets* 6-0, 6-3. Belgium 3 Hungary 0 (Belgium names first): L Courtois bt P Mandula 6-4, 6-1; S Appelmans bt A Temesvari 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; E Callens and N Feber bt P Mandula and A Temesvari 6-1, 6-1. Seoul: Asia-Oceania group: Group A: South Korea 3 New Zealand 0; Thailand 3 Kazakhstan 0; South Korea bt Hong Kong 3-0. Group B: China 3 Taiwan 0; Hong Kong 2 Philippines 1.

YACHTING

BOC CHALLENGE: Solo round the world race: Final leg: Leading positions (at 08.00 GMT yesterday with miles to Charleston, United States): Class 1: 1, Sceta Calberson (C Auguin, Fr) 1,887; 2, Coyote (D Scully, US) 2,064; 3, Hunter's Child (S Pettengill, US) 2,066. Class 2: 1, True Blue (D Adams, Aus) 2,344; 2, Kodak (G Soldini, It) 2,982; 3, Newcastle Australia (A Nebauer, Aus) 3,354.

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Clubs table protest at registration proposals

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND'S leading clubs go into the penultimate weekend of the league season simmering gently — over such immediate issues as championship and relegation, or longer-term matters regarding the unromantic, but fundamental, registration of players and the expansion beyond national borders which, not so long ago, they crossed without regard.

That, though, was in the dear, dead non-competitive days, when a waltz into Wales or a cross-Channel trip could be taken for granted. Now, the Courage Clubs Championship has brought its attendant restrictions which the clubs find claustrophobic; thus, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is to receive a letter from the Senior Clubs Association (SCA) opposing any limit on players who have no England qualification.

"At least we understand that, if legislation were introduced, it would not be retrospective, but there is still a lot of resentment among the clubs," Frank Gibbon, the chairman of the SCA, said, after the meeting, on Thursday, of his executive committee and of the first division clubs. "I believe a number of people at the RFU are as uneasy as we are about the proposed restrictions and I hope our letter will be put before next Friday's full committee meeting."

Turner: Sale's inspiration

Nor do the first division clubs, as a body, oppose the concept of a European tournament involving their most successful members, though the RFU will not entertain the idea for next season. Even though the finance and marketing is readily available, the best that Bath and Leicester may hope for is a revision of the structure for 1996-97.

"Our view is that we could still fit a tournament in next season which may lay the foundation for something to grow throughout the five nations," Richard Mawditt, the Bath chairman, said.

Until such time, there are other fish to fry, the destiny of the 1994-95 league championship, for example, in which Sale have an extensive say. Today, they play Leicester, the leaders, at Brooklands; next Saturday, they play Bath, in second place, at the Recreation Ground. They may not be kings themselves, but they may be kingmakers — or breakers.

The Sale snowball is slowly gathering pace. Fourth in the league, which is five places higher than many thought they might achieve, they seek to avenge the one-point defeat inflicted by Leicester in the cup quarter-final. They can also look to an expansive future, now that they have planning permission for their two grounds and assets worth an estimated £3 million.

Though they await planning permission on one of their favoured sites in Manchester's green belt and the approval of their members for their proposed relocation, Sale are able to contemplate beginning construction work in the autumn and a purpose-built ground opening in 1997.

Whether Paul Turner will still be at the playing helm by then must be doubtful, but the former Wales stand-off half has been the inspiration for their success and will be a substantial thorn in the Leicester side today.

Sale are at strength, though Jim Mallinder plays on the wing with Rob Liley at full back, where he will be in direct opposition to his older brother, John. Leicester will miss three of their internationals, Dean Richards, Neil Back and Tony Underwood, but field their other three — Rory Underwood, Graham Rowntree and Martin Johnson — in the knowledge that victory would leave them requiring a home win next week over Bristol with a side in which only Richards would not have completed the playing criteria laid down by the England management.

It must be assumed that Bath, despite the absence of four England men — Jonathan Callard, Mike Catt, Victor Ubogu and Ben Clarke — will beat a starless Harlequins to sustain the pressure on Leicester. Should they do so and the Midlanders lose, the title, again, will be up for grabs.

Defeat for Northampton today, however, will be terminal. They must beat Wasps and West Hartlepool, next week, to give themselves any prospect of remaining in the first division and, even then, they require that West or Harlequins, both of whom have a three-point cushion, lose today. Both Tim Rodber and Martin Bayfield stand down from the Northampton pack; Frank Packman and Matthew Dawson are injured; the omens are not good.

CHRIS BACON

Hastings, the Scotland captain, prepares for his last appearance at Murrayfield, against Romania today

Scots sign off with captain's farewell

By Mark Souster

SCOTLAND do not have fond memories of Romania. The last time that the sides met in an international was in Bucharest before the 1991 World Cup. Then, as now, it was seen as an important preliminary to the tournament. The match, which Scotland lost 18-12, was only part of the problem.

Worse was to follow on their return flight. A lengthy delay because of a mechanical fault and a subsequent need for ballast at the rear of the aircraft meant that the forwards were ushered somewhat reluctantly to the back of the plane to assist the take-off. The journey was, by common consent, a nightmare.

Despite having home advantage this afternoon for the last time this season, Scotland do have their feet firmly on the ground. While an expectant Murrayfield public may demand a similar cricket score to that run up by England when they played Romania at Twickenham last autumn, and the players may want to sign off with a flourish, Duncan Paterson, the team manager, yesterday cautioned against complacency.

Judging by their recent performance against France, when they lost only 24-15, the Romanians have improved considerably since that inept display at Twickenham. They possess a big pack, some nimble backs, and, in Nicholai Nichitean, a stand-off half with a prodigious boot. If nothing else, they promise to compete.

That said, and despite a five-week lay-off since losing to England on March 18, Scotland should win at a canter. The outcome of the match will depend on their ability to spread the ball and at speed. As England showed in November, the way to beat Romania is to tie them in up front, and to run them ragged wide out.

Tony Stanger is one of only three survivors from the side that lost four years ago — Doddie Weir and Craig Chalmers are the others. He plays at outside centre for the first time for Scotland and will be winning his 37th cap.

The captain for the last time at Murrayfield will be Gavin Hastings. Much has been written about his retirement, which was announced this week, and a team without the lantern-jawed player at its helm is hard to imagine. He will be missed; as yet, there is no obvious successor.

After all the injury worries this season, which have deprived the side of Gary Armstrong, Andy Reed and Gregor Townsend, the management will breathe a sigh of relief if all the players emerge unscathed today. Further setbacks could leave the World Cup squad somewhat bare.

MURRAYFIELD TEAMS

SCOTLAND: A G Hastings (Watsonians, *captain*); C A Joiner (Melrose), A G Stanger (Hawick), A G Shiel (Melrose), K M Logan (Stirling County); C M Chalmers (Melrose), B W Redpath (Melrose); D I W Hilton (Bath), K D McKenzie (Stirling County), P H Wright (Boroughmuir), R I Wainwright (West Hartlepool), G W Weir (Melrose), S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP), I R Morrison (London Scottish), E W Peters (Bath). *Replacements*: I C Glasgow (Heriots' FP), S Hastings (Watsonians), D W Patterson (West Hartlepool) J J Manson (Dundee HSFP), K S Milne (Heriots FP), J F Richardson (Edinburgh Academicals).

Referee: N Lasaga (France)

ROMANIA: V Brici (Farul Constanta); R Cicca (*Dynamo Bucharest*), N Racean (Cluj University), R Gontineac (Cluj University), G Solomie (Timisoai University); N Nichitean (*Cluj University*), D Neaga (Dynamo Bucharest); G Leonte (Vienne), V Tufa (Dynamo Bucharest), L Costea (Steaua Bucharest), T Oroian (Steaua Bucharest), S Ciorascu (Auch), C Cojocariu (Bayonne), A Gealapu (Steaua Bucharest), T Brinza (Cluj University, *captain*). *Replacements*: D Nicholae (Steaua Bucharest), I Negreci (Constanta), C Branescu (Farul Constanta), C Draguceanu (Steaua Bucharest), V Flutur (Cluj University), I Ivanciuc (Stnia Petrosani).

Pontypridd have final within sight

By David Hands

PONTYPRIDD may be resigned to losing the Heineken League title to *Cardiff and they have been forced to accept that Paul John, their talented scrum half, will not go to the World Cup in South Africa next month, but they do not have to concede the Swalec Cup to anyone — yet. The cup could cap an enviably successful season, but, if they are to reach the final on May 6, they must beat Llanelli, an achievement that has been beyond them in seven previous cup meetings.*

This will be the first of the semi-finals today, played at 1.30pm on (ironically) the neutral ground of Cardiff. The second, in which Cardiff themselves pursue the league and cup double against Swansea, is at Llanelli at 3.15pm and sees the return to action at lock of Derwyn Jones, after the ankle injury that threatened his participation in the World cup.

Pontypridd, second favourites behind Cardiff, will take great encouragement from their league win last week over Llanelli, when they fielded far from their optimum XV. They lack only Owen Robbins, the injured wing, against a Llanelli side with a somewhat threadbare look: Wayne Proctor remains as emergency full back for the fourth successive match, Spencer John props despite a broken nose and Rupert Moon rushes back into action at scrum half after damaging his shoulder.

In the league, Cardiff have been the pace-setters all season; their pack against Swansea includes *seven forwards who will go to the World cup, the exception being Lyndon Mustoe, at prop. Simon Hill is preferred on the wing to Nigel Walker and, at scrum half, Andy Moore begins his battle to usurp the international place occupied by Robert Jones.*

Only once, in a semi-final in 1978, have Swansea beaten Cardiff in the *cup. Today, somewhat confusingly, they field their own Andy Moore — at lock, ahead of the veteran,* Richard Moriarty.

Warwicks need to be wary of Johnson's experience

By David Hands

NORTHUMBERLAND began the CIS county championship this season in defeat against Cumbria. They hope to conclude it in victory at Twickenham today and take back to the North East a title which has resided there only twice before, in 1981 and 1898.

They will be guided against Warwickshire by David Johnson, one of the game's enduring figures, the stand-off half who is in his fortieth year. At a time when so many contemporaries have retired, Johnson has sampled first-division life with Newcastle Gosforth and will savour another appearance at headquarters to put alongside his 1981 Cup Final and 1985 England B cap.

Perhaps it is something to do with the air, but Alan Old, another stand-off from the same side of the Pennines, played county rugby with Yorkshire well after his international days were over. Now, Michael, Old's son, comes to Twickenham too, as the one change from the Northumberland XV which beat Gloucestershire in the semi-final. He replaces Andrew Blyth at full back because Blyth has opted to play for England Colts, who meet France in La Teste today.

Warwickshire, though, one of the great names of the county championship when the competition meant more than it does now, will be favoured to win before one of Twickenham's smaller crowds of the season. Firmly based on Rugby Lions, on whose ground they dismissed Berkshire 31-5 in their semi-final, Warwickshire seek their tenth title. Phil Bowman, who will be at lock, played in the 1988 final, but Bob Massey, the centre who played for the successful 1986 XV, is relegated to the replacements.

The match will mark the conclusion of Matt Bayliss's 18-year career as a referee, the last four as one of the Rugby Football Union's top ten. "To referee the county final is a wonderful farewell for me," Bayliss said, "and there's something special for someone from Gloucestershire having the appointment because it's the society's centenary season"

NORTHUMBERLAND: M Old (Tynedale); G Ward (Novocastrians), R Wilkinson (Newcastle, Gosforth), I Chandler (Newcastle Gosforth), D Rees (Sale), D Johnson (Blaydon), S Clayton-Hibbitt (Tynedale). R Parker (Tynedale, captain). E Parker (Tynedale), D Clark (Morpeth), R Hoole (Edinburgh Academicals), K Westgarth (West Hartlepool), R Metcalfe (Newcastle Gosforth), N Frankland (Newcastle Gosforth), D Guthrie (Blaydon).

WARWICKSHIRE (Rugby Lions unless stated). J Quantrill; A Smallwood (Nottingham), A Gillooly, M Palmer, D Watson, M Gallagher (Nottingham), M Warr (Sale); G Treglgas (Coventry, captain), D Addleton (Coventry), T Revan, D Oram, S Smith, P Bowman, M Ellis (Kenilworth), N Riley (Kenilworth)

Referee: M Bayliss (Gloucestershire)

☐ England make only one change for their final colts international of the season, against France, introducing Ben Stafford, of Bath, on the wing. The colts have already beaten Italy and Scotland, but lost to Wales Youth, who will, next week, go for their own grand slam, against the Scots.

Blake leads N Zealand challenge into final contention

By Our Sports Staff

HORNS, water hoses, a cheering crowd and the losing team greeted Peter Blake and his Team New Zealand crew on Thursday as they sailed to shore as winners of the America's Cup challenger trials.

The first victory sip from the Louis Vuitton Cup went to Russell Coutts, the helmsman, who steered Team New Zealand's boats, *Black Magic I* and *Black Magic II*, through the trials. "I guess we're there now," Coutts said, "but tomorrow we'll start preparing for the next part."

Having eliminated *OneAustralia*, the team now waits to discover the identity of the American defenders, with whom they will compete for the America's Cup itself.

"It's winnable," Blake said. "To take the America's Cup back to my country is the best present I could ever give my country."

It has been a tempestuous path for the New Zealand challenge ever since the nation made its first bid for the trophy in 1987. While New Zealanders have captured every other significant yachting trophy on offer, the America's Cup has always eluded them.

Chris Dickson flew through the challenger elimination rounds in 1987, winning 36 of the 37 races, but then fell heavily, 4-1, to Dennis Conner in the challenger final.

The notorious catamaran débâcle of 1988 saw the New Zealanders lose face and 2-0 on the water. The America's Cup that year was largely fought out in the courts.

In 1992, New Zealand's claim to the Louis Vuitton Cup at last seemed inevitable, but, despite a 25-5 run-up to the challenger finals, the team crumbled again, losing 5-4 having led 4-1.

This year, at last, everything was in place. The New Zealanders' reputation for starting fast and fading out has been dispelled.

"It's impossible to think that you can enter the America's Cup and win first time," Blake said. "You have to be prepared to come back. Every time you come back, you can get a little better."

Blake is a winner of the Whitbread Round the World Race and holds the non-stop round-the-world speed record. He has brought calm and organisation to the New Zealand camp.

"We have done what was necessary to be here; there is still a lot to do and a lot to give," he said. "We are very fresh. This time three years ago, the Italians had given everything. There is huge satisfaction, especially with the way we did it. It was better than expected."

John Bertrand, the *OneAustralia* skipper and the only man to take the America's Cup from American shores, was magnanimous in defeat. "Congratulations to Team New Zealand," he said. "Their attention to detail has been excellent."

Last Post for smaller clubs

By Christopher Irvine

TOMORROW is the last post for some rugby league clubs and the *Trumpet Voluntary* for the fortunate ones, before the summer Super League, next year, culminates in a rescheduled Great Britain tour of Australasia. A big noise certainly, but just how big?

Through-routes from the game's M62 corridor to Paris and London are part fulfilment of expansionary ambitions. As for the northern landscape, it could well end up looking remarkably similar, as proposed conglomerates split. Salford and Oldham — Manchester, supposedly — are among those battling for Super League autonomy.

Not that the road to Tattersfield will survive. Doncaster were financial casualties even before the Super League. A merger as South Yorkshire with Sheffield Eagles was a life-line, but emotions on a final Sunday for the club immortalised by *Another Bloody Sunday*, the television documentary, are bound to be high.

Workington Town are the visitors at Doncaster and will stand alone in the elite set-up, probably as Cumbria, as Whitehaven, Carlisle and Barrow have refused to join them. Although hardly prominent on the *Lake District* tourist map, Workington have designs on becoming a summer attraction.

Hull's burial, before the birth of Humberside, Hull United — whatever — comes at Wigan. As far as the majority of Castleford, Wakefield Trinity and Featherstone Rovers supporters are concerned, unity is out of the question, but there is a financial imperative that makes going it alone in a reconstructed British league an unattractive prospect.

Keighley and Batley, despite winning "promotion", remain Super League outcasts. Wisely, perhaps, Maurice Lindsay might give Rochdale a miss tomorrow. Rather than the chief executive of the Rugby Football League (RFL), representatives of Stones Bitter will present Keighley with the second division trophy, after a match switched by Highfield with 4,000 Cougars followers anticipated.

Andy Precious (punching) and Brad Davis (dissent) have both been banned for two matches after being sent off in Ryedale-York's defeat at Huddersfield. Leigh Deakin was found not guilty of a late, high tackle.

As legal eagles continue to circle Chapeltown Road, Keighley will announce, on Monday, their long-awaited action, which coincides with the start, in London, of a three-day meeting of the sport's international board. The international side of the game is still recoiling from the tumultuous events of the past fortnight, in which Britain and New Zealand have signed up to the Super League.

The Australian Rugby League (ARL) is the one isolated, as battle for control of the game in Australia remains joined. Britain and the ARL are agreed on mutual recognition for the sake of the World Cup in England and Wales in October, but the RFL yesterday confirmed an inaugural Super League tour by Britain in October 1996.

Britain had been due on an ARL-sanctioned visit in May next year. Now, in a tour immediately after play-offs between the new European and Australasian leagues, they will play three international matches in Australia, one in New Zealand, and meet three Super League club sides.

John Ribot, the chief executive of the Super League, said: "This reinforces our stance that, to play representative football at the highest level, players must take part in Super League competition in Australia and New Zealand. It's been disappointing that the ARL has suggested that, to play tests against the old foe, you have to be one of their players."

Leeds's lengthy injury list has been cut, with Schofield, Tait, Iro, Mercer, Holroyd, Innes and Mann fit again, but Ellery Hanley will miss the game at Wakefield in readiness for the Challenge Cup final against Wigan next Saturday. Castleford must win at Bradford Northern to secure a top-four place.

Duck's solo effort sinks Portsmouth

By Sydney Friskin

CROSTYX and Whitchurch, the two second division hockey clubs, achieved victories on the first day of the inter-league play-offs at Olton yesterday.

Crostyx had to fight hard for a 2-1 victory over City of Portsmouth in pool B after conceding an early goal, Paul Cooper, formerly of Havant, putting Portsmouth ahead in the fourth minute from a short corner.

With Cooper under temporary suspension for a minor offence, City of Portsmouth started the second half with ten men, but it was not until the 55th minute, after Cooper's return, that Crostyx were awarded a penalty stroke for a heavy stick tackle. Paul Dover converted it and, six minutes later, Nick Duck scored the winning goal with a solo effort.

In pool A, Whitchurch beat Bath Buccaneers 4-2, Daniel Jones scoring twice for Whitchurch, one goal coming from a penalty stroke. Huw Savage and Mark Lewis were the other scorers. Bob Seabrook and Peter Wheeler replied for Bath Buccaneers, Wheeler levelling the score at 2-2 from a short corner.

Olton and West Warwickshire, the host club who are coached by Gavin Featherstone, lost 1-0 to Blueharts, for whom Mark Russell scored from a short corner in the sixth minute.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The hand today shows another variation on the loser-on-loser theme, from the late Hugh Kelsey's book, *Winning Card Play*.

Dealer South **Love all** **Rubber bridge**

North
♠A 6 5
♥J 5 4
♦Q 8 7 4 3
♣3 2

West
♠10 3
♥10 9 3
♦A J 9 6
♣Q 10 8 4

East
♠Q J 9 8 2
♥Q 6
♦K 10 2
♣J 7 5

South
♠K 7 4
♥A K 8 7 2
♦5
♣A K 9 6

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Contract: Four Hearts by South **Lead: Ten of spades**

You have four top tricks in the black suits and you can reasonably expect your hearts to be worth four tricks. You need two ruffs in dummy to make ten tricks. So, you win the ace of spades, take the top clubs and ruff a club, and play a spade to the king. Then, when West follows to the fourth round of clubs, you do not have to gamble that he has the queen of hearts — just discard a spade from dummy.

Now, you are in a position to ruff your third spade low (or overruff East). You have used the "loser-on-loser" technique *to transfer a ruff in a dangerous suit to one in which the ruff is safe. In my experience, this is the commonest form of* loser-on-loser play. Another form is where the right-hand opponent leads a suit through the declarer which the left-hand opponent may be ruffing.

Often, the declarer can avoid the possible overruff by discarding a side loser.

Other variants occur in communication-cutting plays. In one suit, the dangerous defender may have an entry, but, by discarding his loser in that suit on a winner scored by the other defender, the declarer shuts the danger hand out.

☐ *Robert Sheehan writes on bridge every day in the sports pages of The Times.*

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Favourite fails

Neil McDonald, the international master, who scored a clear victory in the St Peter's de Beauvoir international tournament in Islington last week, started as the favourite in the Café Baroque international which followed. Nevertheless, after a loss and a draw in the first three rounds, he is trailing Richard Tozer, who has scored three wins. The most brilliant game so far was the queen sacrifice to force checkmate brought about by Shaw against Holland.

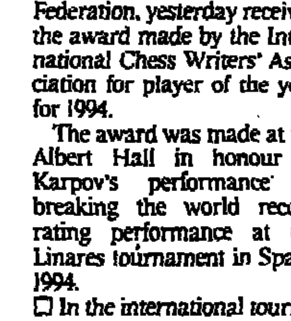
White: Holland
Black: *Shaw*
Cafe Baroque, April 1995

English Opening

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Bb4
3	Nd5	Be7
4	g3	c6
5	Nxe7	Qxe7
6	Bg2	d6
7	Nf3	f5
8	d4	e4
9	Nd2	Nf6
10	e3	c5
11	Qa4+	Bd7
12	Qb3	Nc6
13	Qc3	0-0
14	a3	f4
15	gxf4	cxd4
16	exd4	Nh5
17	Nf1	Nxd4
18	Bxf4	Rxf4
19	Ng3	Bg4
20	0-0	Bf3
21	Rae1	Qf6
22	Nxe4	Qg6
23	Ng3	Nxd4
24	Re3	Raf8
25	Bxf3	Nxf3+
26	Kg2	Qh6
27	h3	Qxh3+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



After 28. Kxh3 Rh4+; 29. Kg2 Rh2 is mate.

☐ Anatoly Karpov, the champion of the World Chess Federation, yesterday received the award made by the International Chess Writers' Association for player of the year for 1994.

The award was made at the Albert Hall in honour of Karpov's performance in breaking the world record rating performance at the Linares tournament in Spain, 1994.

☐ *In the international tournament in Riga, all games from the seventh round were drawn. Garry Kasparov, the Professional Chess Association world champion, thus maintained his narrow lead.*

☐ *Raymond Keene writes on chess every day in the sports pages of The Times.*

Aqaarid puts Carson in a quandary

By Julian Muscat

WILLIE CARSON was in no doubt that Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum will land his fourth 1,000 Guineas in six years at Newmarket on May 7. But the jockey himself was in something of a quandary after Aqaarid swept to an imperious victory in the Gainsborough Stud Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday.

After the promising run of Harayir, who faced a stiff assignment in effectively conceding 7lb to Diffident in the European Free Handicap on Wednesday, Carson is now confronted by an enviable choice of mounts. However, the difficulty he faces was amplified by Corals, who quote both fillies at 5-1 behind Moonshell, their 4-1 favourite.

Whatever the result of Carson's deliberations, Aqaarid's defeat of Hoh Magic and Autumn Affair was as decisive as it was welcome. Pre-race opinion suggested this extended seven furlongs was on the sharp side yet Aqaarid, like Myself, a daughter of Nashwan, displayed a precocity that belied her pedigree.

Smartly into her stride, she held a prominent position before Carson sent her homewards fully two furlongs from the finish. "She idled at that point," her trainer, John Dunlop, later reflected, "but then she quickened again. I couldn't be more pleased with her. She always works nicely at home but she never commits herself as she does on the racecourse."

Dunlop could shed no light on Carson's opinion on the merits of Aqaarid and Harayir. "I thought it was too vulgar to ask him for comparisons," he quipped. "There were three group one winners in this field and it was enough that she won it in style." Given that Aqaarid should find 12 furlongs within her range, Dunlop was fully entitled to his upbeat analysis.

Angus Gold, racing manager to Sheikh Hamdan, suggested both Aqaarid and Harayir would be in the Newmarket line-up. "You never know, one might get stuck in a pocket or something equally horrendous," Gold suggested, although he deferred the final decision to his employer.

Dunlop has now annexed the Fred Darling four times in six seasons. Two winners, Salsabil and Shadayid, later triumphed at Newmarket, while the third, Bulaxie, was withdrawn on the morning of the race. Such a record bodes well for Aqaarid, who has undergone a rare metamorphosis over the winter months. She has blossomed into a fine physical specimen.

On an attractive supporting card, John Gosden bagged a treble through Polish Legion, Tamure and Tarhhib. Each was seeing the racecourse for the first time: Tamure perhaps looked the most promising.

JULIAN HERBERT

Carson drives Aqaarid to an emphatic victory in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday

Lucky Di has fitness edge

NEWBURY
BBC1

2.00: A fascinating race complicated by the soft ground form achieved last season by the fancied runners. Stelvio has a tall home reputation after a striking end-of-season success at Nottingham. He is sure to win good races this term but **Lucky Di** justified favouritism 17 days ago at Ripon and his fitness advantage could be vital. Luca Cumani's colt should benefit from the step up from a mile and is a tentative choice in a race best watched.

2.30: The race conditions suit Strategic Choice and Zilzal Zamaan, whom their trainers expect to improve noticeably this term. Strategic Choice finished three lengths fifth in the French Derby but a minor leg injury interrupted his season. He may be suited by further and **Zilzal Zamaan** is marginally preferred. Michael Stoute's runner beat Distant View on his debut last year but his best form came towards the end of the season when stepped up to today's distance. Broadway Flyer, second in the St Leger, will probably need further while River North is best with some cut in the ground.

3.00: Celtic Swing first, the rest nowhere? Everyone will be hoping the best two-year-old for a generation opens his three-year-old campaign in the style which saw him win the Racing Post Trophy by 12 lengths. The Lady Herries-trained colt is officially rated 18lb superior to the next best horses here. Peace Envoy appeals as an each-way chance but this is a race to savour.

3.30: A low draw is helpful with five of the last six winners being drawn five or less. Ian Balding won with Tissisat two years ago when making his seasonal debut and **Pay Homage** has a sporting chance from stall one. Winner of a listed race on his seasonal reapearance, he subsequently disappointed but has tumbled down the weights. Dangers abound, headed by Sheppard's Cross, but she may be better over slightly shorter. Sharp Prospect is sure to win more races this term but may prefer softer ground and is not particularly well drawn.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

AYR
C4

2.25: Major Bell ran his best ever race at Aintree and can defy top weight. Trump ran a rare bad race at Newcastle a month ago and would have sound prospects if returning to his best, but a bigger threat could be No Pain No Gain, whom Josh Gifford sends from Findon.

2.55: Dancing Paddy should, in theory, reverse Aintree form with Morceli on 3lb better terms but **Morceli** had more in hand than the 1½-length winning margin indicated. The bold-jumping front runner will be hard to catch. Wee River faces his toughest test.

3.25: Batabanoo was giving lumps of weight to Thinking Twice and Nemuro (winner since) when third at Aintree and Mary Reveley's runner will take all the beating. Simple Arithmetic disappointed last time but will be suited by the return to the minimum trip.

4.05: Royal Athlete attempts to become the first Grand National winner since Red Rum to follow up in this race and others make more appeal. First time blinkers could benefit Lo Stregone, a thorough stayer who will appreciate this ground. Musthaveaswig looks well handicapped but tends to ruin his chances with jumping errors. **Uranus Collonges** was pulled up at Aintree but should prefer this return to a much longer trip. He makes each-way appeal.

4.40: Master Boston and Brave Highlander are the obvious form choices but both have had a long season and **Shawwell** could be a value alternative on his first start over fences. He invariably goes well fresh and is best on fast ground.

Richard Evans

THIRSK

THUNDERER
2.15 Maggi For Margaret. 2.50 Lord Olivier. 3.20 Moments Of Fortune. 3.50 Surrey Dancer. 4.20 Fresh Look. 4.50 Beau Venture. 5.20 Willshe Gan.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.20 BALTIC RAIDER (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 CLIFTON CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,789: 5f) (5 runners)

1	03	SHARP MONTY 7 R Hollinshead 8-11	Paul Eddery 1
2	1	THE FRISKY FARMER 15 (D,F) W G M Turner 8-11	T Sprake 3
3	1	MISS BIGWIG 21 (D,S) J Berry 8-10	J Carroll 5
4		SAFIO C Smith 8-7	J Fortune 2
5	1	MAGGI FOR MARGARET 26 (D,G) M Channon 8-6	C Rutter 4

Evens Miss Bigwig, 5-2 Maggi For Margaret, 5-1 The Frisky Farmer, 7-1 Sharp Monty, 10-1 Safio.

2.50 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (£5,911: 6f) (7)

1	351-	MONAASSIB 295 (D,F) E Dunlop 4-9-6	Paul Eddery 1
2	0-64	VENTURE CAPITALIST 14 (D,F,G) D Nicholls 6-9-6	Alex Greaves 6
3	442-	LORD OLIVIER 249 (CD,F,G) W Jarvis 5-9-2	M Tebbutt 7
4	066-	BUNTY BOO 168 (D,G,S) R Hannon 6-8-13	R Perham 2
5	140-	LAGO DI VARANO 191 (B,G,S) J Berry 3-8-12	J Carroll 3
6	120-	DON'T WORRY ME 219 (F) F Lee 3-8-3	P Robinson 4
7	1	KARINA HEIGHTS 18 (G) J Watts 3-7-13	J Lowe 5

9-4 Bunty Boo, 11-4 Venture Capitalist, 7-2 Lord Olivier, 5-1 Monaassib, 8-1 Karina Heights, 10-1 Lago Di Varano, 12-1 Don't Worry Me.

3.20 THIRSK CLASSIC TRIAL CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £11,237: 1m) (6)

1	6-05	BALTIC RAIDER 7 (F,G) G Wragg 9-2	P Robinson 3
2	63-0	BE MINDFUL 3 (F) J Fanshawe 9-2	K Fallon 2
3	325-	IMPULSIVE AIR 231 (G) E Weymes 8-12	J Fortune 4
4	51-3	MOMENTS OF FORTUNE 28 (F) B Hanbury 8-12	Paul Eddery 5
5	12-	SAYEH 184 (S) H Thomson Jones 8-10	N Carlisle 6
6	5-?2	DEE-LADY 15 (F) W G M Turner 8-7	G Duffield 1

5-4 Baltic Raider, 5-1 Be Mindful, 4-1 Impulsive Air, 5-1 Moments Of Fortune, 6-1 [illegible]

3.50 STRAIGHTLACE LIMITED STAKES
(£3,216: 1m 4f) (6)

1	10-4	BAYRAK 16 (D,G) M Ryan 5-9-10	Paul Eddery 3
2	5-00	FEN SPARROW 73 (S) M Tinkler 5-9-10	Kim Tinkler 1
3	060-	SURREY DANCER 700 (F,S,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-10	G Parkin (7) 2
4	005-	GREENFINCH 350 (D) Mrs A Naughton 4-9-9	J Stack (5) 4
5	024-	SARMAA 275 (F) M Smith 4-9-4	G Duffield 5
6	0-64	BELLARA 15 N Babbage 3-7-12	J Quinn 6

6-4 Surrey Dancer, 9-4 Sarmaa, 7-2 Bayrak, 8-1 Fen Sparrow, 12-1 Greenfinch, 14-1 Bellara.

4.20 BYLAND RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,428: 7f) (14)

1	0-00	QUIET MISSION 79 (B) J Eyre 4-9-12	J Tate (3) 14
2	5000	SPANISH STRIPPER 11 M Chapman 4-9-12	C Munday (7) 6
3	000-	BAIRN GLEN 143J G Oldroyd 4-9-7	M McAndrew 13
4	40-3	BLASTED 14 R Hannon 3-8-12	R Perham 11
5	3-06	NAFTA 7 S Kettlewell 3-8-12	D R McCabe (3) 2
6	530-	SPARA TIR 189 Bob Jones 3-8-12	M Wigham 3
7	403	STATUS 9 T Barron 3-8-12	J Fortune 10
8	056-	UPEX LE GOLD TOO 157 Mrs A Swinbank 3-8-12	J Marshall 12
9	000-	BLACKSPOT 288 (B) F Lee 3-8-7	R Lappin 5
10	350-	FRESH LOOK 304 R Johnson Houghton 3-8-7	J Quinn 8
11	000-	LADY PLOY 172 Miss L Siddall 3-8-7	Dean McKeown 9
12	360-	NORDIC DOLL 183 B Hills 3-8-7	J D Smith (5) 7
13	040-	QUALITAIR PRIDE 172 J Bottomley 3-8-7	K Fallon 4
14	400-	TAKESHI 208 E Dunlop 3-8-7	Paul Eddery 1

9-4 Nordic Doll, 5-2 Blasted, 7-1 Status, Nafta, 8-1 Spara Tir, 12-1 Upex Le Gold Too, 16-1 others.

4.50 THOMAS LORD HANDICAP (£6,435: 5f) (16)

1	3-61	FANGIO 2 (D,F,G) W G M Turner 6-10-2 (7ex)	P McCabe (5) 10
2	20-0	JUST BOB 17 (C,D,F,G,S) S Kettlewell 6-9-11	J Stack (5) 9
3	00-0	STEPHENSONS ROCKET 5 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 4-9-9	J Carroll 13
4	0-12	SADDLEHOME 17 (D,F,G,S) T Barron 6-9-7	J Fortune 1
5	000-	BEAU VENTURE 168 (D,F,G,S) F Lee 7-9-5	P Robinson 14
6	000-	MAGIC PEARL 196 (D,S) E Alston 5-9-4	K Fallon 4
7	6-00	CRADLE DAYS 15 (D,F,G) R Spicer 6-9-3	J O'Reilly 11
8	1200	LORD SKY 5 (V,D,F,G,S) A Bailey 4-9-1	V Halliday (5) 2
9	106-	FRENCH GRIT 176 (D,F) M Dods 3-9-0	Dale Gibson 8
10	000-	NED'S BONANZA 189 (C,D,F,G) M Dods 6-9-0	S Whitworth 6
11	323-	CROFT IMPERIAL 413 (D,F,G,S) M Johnston 8-8-13	D Holland 5
12	-436	KING RAMBO 9 (G) (D) R Hollinshead 4-8-8	A Garth (5) 3
13	1331	PRIMULA BAIRN 21 (V,D,G,S) J Mackie 5-8-8	Paul Eddery 15
14	052-	BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 157 (B,D,G,S) S Bowring 5-8-8	S D Williams 16
15	442-	CRAIGIE BOY 199 (G,S) N Bycroft 5-8-6	J Quinn 12
16	1132	TENOR 5 (D,G) D Nicholls 4-8-5	Alex Greaves 7

4-1 Saddlehome, 6-1 Craigie Boy, 7-1 Fangio, Tenor, 10-1 Beau Venture, Primula Bairn, Croft Imperial, 14-1 others.

5.20 LEVY BOARD FILLIES HANDICAP
(£4,070: 1m) (11)

1	1-01	MISTY SILKS 23 (D,G,S) M Ryan 5-10-0	Paul Eddery 10
2	-400	CELESTIAL CHOIR 15 (D,F,G,S) J Eyre 5-10-0	J Fortune 2
3	6506	QUEENS CONSUL 15 (D,F,G) B Rothwell 5-9-9	J Stack (5) 7
4	00-0	BALLARD RING 15 (D,F) J Wainwright 4-9-6	Dean McKeown 3
5	00-0	PRIDE OF PENDLE 29 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 6-9-4	Alex Greaves 1
6	0-06	PRINCESS MAXINE 14 (D,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 6-9-2	J Carroll 9
7	100-	DONNA VIOLA 182 (F) C Wall 3-8-7	N Carlisle 11
8	-650	KARINSKA 15 (D,F,G) M Chapman 5-8-0	C Munday (7) 6
9	00-3	LAST LAUGH 18 (F) R Hannon 3-8-0	P Robinson 5
10	000-	WILLSHE GAN 211 (F,S) Denys Smith 5-7-12	J Quinn 4
11	0-33	GREY AGAIN 18 (B,G) S Bowring 3-7-7	P Fessey (7) 8

3-1 Misty Silks, 7-2 Last Laugh, 6-1 Princess Maxine, 8-1 Queens Consul, Grey Again, Donna Viola, 10-1 Celestial Choir, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Wall, 3 winners from 5 runners, 60.0%. R Jarvis, 3 from 10, 30.0%. J Fanshawe, 5 from 18, 27.8%. G Wragg, 4 from 15, 26.7%. S Kettlewell, 3 from 13, 23.1%. B Hanbury, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

JOCKEYS: C Munday, 3 winners from 10 rides, 30.0%. G Duffield, 28 from 97, 28.9%. J Tate, 4 from 22, 18.2%. Paul Eddery, 6 from 34, 17.6%. J Carroll, 12 from 95, 12.6%. J Fortune, 11 from 93, 11.8%.

STRATFORD

THUNDERER
5.30 Canoscan. 6.00 Mariner's Air. 6.30 Tug Of Peace. 7.00 Sticky Money. 7.30 Amari King. 8.00 Rutland Gate.

Brian Beel: 7.30 Sandybraes.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

5.30 LAURENT-PERRIER HANDICAP CHASE (£4,691: 2m 4f) (7 runners) SKY

1	-160	KINGS FOUNTAIN 161 (D,F,G,S) K Bailey 12-12-0	A Thornton
2	130R	BEECH ROAD 15 (C,D,F,G,S) G Balding 13-12-0	A P McCoy
3	1120	SAILORS LUCK 15 (C,G,S) P Murphy 10-10-8	P Hide
4	000P	MIDFIELDER 131 (CD,F,G,S) P Hobbs 9-10-8	DOUBTFUL
5	-P61	CANOSCAN 21 (D,G,S) Lady Herries 10-10-4	C Burnett-Wells
6	25-4	HEARTS ARE WILD 163 (D,BF,F,G) T Forster 8-10-0	D Meredith (3)
7	2-23	BLUSTERY FELLOW 43 (D,F,G) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-0	G Hogan (5)

5-2 Canoscan, 4-1 Hearts Are Wild, 9-2 Sailors Luck, 6-1 Kings Fountain, 7-1 Beech Road, Blustery Fellow.

6.00 RICHARDSONS BIRTHDAY MARES ONLY HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,941: 2m 110yd) (9) SKY

1	1111	MARINER'S AIR 26 (D,G,S) J Spearing 8-12-0	—
2	0555	SENSE OF VALUE 35 (D,F,S) J Smith 6-10-13	R Davis
3	-261	CHIEF JOSEPH 7 (F) N Twiston-Davies 8-10-11	Mr S Joynes (7)
4	-13F	BLUSHING BELLE 3 (F,G,S) J White 7-10-7	G Hogan (5)
5	1165	SMART IN SABLE 113 (G,S) P Hedger 8-10-3	D Meredith (3)
6	F023	MISS HAGGIS 28 J Gifford 6-10-2	P Hide
7	-040	MARTHA'S DAUGHTER 40 T Forster 6-10-0	A P McCoy
8	013-	MIGAVON 354 (G) L Spock 5-10-0	A Thornton
9	0-00	ABSOLUTLEY FOXED 10 (S) B McMahon 5-10-0	G Robertson (7)

2-1 Mariner's Air, 7-2 Chief Joseph, 5-1 Miss Haggis, 7-1 Blushing Belle, 8-1 Sense Of Value, Smart In Sable, 12-1 Martha's Daughter, 16-1 others.

6.30 COVENTRY PROFILE NOVICES CHASE (£5,311: 3m) (10) SKY

1	332F	COKENNY BOY 33 (D,F,G,S) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-8	J R Kavanagh
2	511P	ALLO GEORGE 35 (G,G,S) A Newcombe 9-11-3	A Thornton
3	01	DARREN THE BRAVE 32 (CD,S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 7-11-3	R Greene
4	33P3	SCOTTON BANKS 12 (D,G,S) M H Easterby 6-11-5	L Wyer
5	4002	TUG OF PEACE 5 (G,S) G Balding 8-11-3	A P McCoy
6	1FF4	WAR COUNSEL 31 (S) [illegible]	G Hogan
7	-604	BALLYNIGY? 31 [illegible]	J Lodder
8	U332	DOCS DILEMMA 17 (F) K Bailey [illegible]	N Williamson
9	P	DORADUS RANGER [illegible] 10-10-12	L Harvey
10	0EF0	MOSSIE GOLD 84 [illegible]	S Keightley

2-1 Scotton Banks, 5-1 Cokenny Boy, 6-1 Tug Of Peace, 7-1 Allo George, Docs Dilemma, 8-1 Darren The Brave, War Counsel, 12-1 others.

7.00 JENKINSONS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,738: 2m 6f 110yd) (17)

1	51U0	DERRING BRIDGE 24 Mrs S Johnson 5-11-4	Mr R Johnson (7)
2	P320	FIXTURESSECRETARY 26 (S) D Nicholson 6-11-4	W Marston
3	1432	LUCKY DOLLAR 17 (S) K Bailey 7-11-4	N Williamson
4	1443	SO HOPEFUL 36 (S) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-4	R Greene
5	06P1	STICKY MONEY 30 (D,S) M Pipe 7-10-13	J Lower
6	503	BLANK CHEQUE 31 M Wilkinson 5-10-12	R Supple
7	00	CELTIC REG 26 Mrs H Parrott 5-10-12	S Curran (3)
8	2-50	EALING COURT 38 (V,G) H Oliver 6-10-12	V Slattery
9		FLOTATION J Jenkins 6-10-12	L Wyer
10	0-03	GLENSKI 40 G Balding 6-10-12	A P McCoy
11	64	JIMMY'S FANCY 10 Mrs S Williams 7-10-12	S Lyons (3)
12	P230	JUST BRUCE 5 Mrs E Heath 6-10-12	J A McCarthy
13		PLACID-WARRIOR 50F J McConnochie 5-10-12	R Bellamy
14	P	SHEPTON SONG 24 N Babbage 5-10-12	Philip Hughes (7)
15	0	SUGAR HILL 28 J Gifford 5-10-12	P Hide
16	5P	TILTY 105F A Forbes 5-10-12	T Eley (3)
17	P	RUN WITH JOY 22 M Banks 4-10-5	D Skyrme

9-4 Lucky Dollar, 7-2 Sticky Money, So Hopeful, 8-1 Ealing Court, 10-1 others.

7.30 BAULKING GREEN TROPHY HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,206: 2m 5f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	1-30	AMARI KING 15 (C,D,F,G,S) J Wall 11-12-7	C Ward Thomas (7)
2	-222	DUNCAN 46 (F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 10-12-7	B Pollock (7)
3	PF13	THE BLUE BOY 23 (B,D,F,G,S) P Bowen 7-12-7	D Duggan (7)
4	04PU	AIR COMMANDER 13P (G,F) Mrs P Joynes 10-12-0	A Milner (7)
5	/P13	BECTIVE BOY 35P (F,S) Mrs D Buckett 13-12-0	M Batters (7)
6	101R	GOLDEN FREEZE 15 (G,S) Mrs A Bowlby 13-12-0	C Morlock (7)
7	0P5-	KILLBANON 389 (F,G,S) C Trietline 13-12-0	C Trietline (7)
8	16-5	LONGSHOREMAN 17 (D,F,S) Mrs A Barclay 8-12-0	S Joynes (7)
9	0321	MAC'S GLEN 13P H Wellstead 11-12-0	Miss S Barraclough (7)
10	F3-P	RADICAL VIEWS 77P (G,S) Mrs T Hill 10-12-0	A Hill (5)
11	S41-	RAH WAN 340 (F) P Cramings 9-12-0	C Vigors (7)
12	12P3	SANDYBRAES 25 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 10-12-0	R Johnson (7)
13	-1P2	LADY LLANFAIR 13P (D,F,S) W Oakes 9-11-9	Miss P Jones (5)

6-4 Sandybraes, 9-2 The Blue Boy, 6-1 Amari King, 8-1 Duncan, 10-1 others.

8.00 ILMINGTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,479: 2m 110yd) (17)

1	4601	QUASIMODO 19 (F) Miss C Johnsey 4-11-10	L Harvey
2	1644	VICEROY RULER 45 (V,D,G) J Jenkins 4-11-10	N Williamson
3	U500	KALISKO 47 (S) O Sherwood 5-11-7	J A McCarthy
4	1340	CASUAL WATER 10 (G) A Newcombe 4-11-4	B Clifford
5	4460	TONY'S MIST 5F J Bradley 5-11-2	Guy Lewis (5)
6	4F14	PHROSE 71 (B,D,BF,S) J A Harris 5-11-1	T Dascombe (7)
7	2123	DOCTOR-J 127 (D,F) J White 5-11-1	P McLoughlin (3)
8	63-P	POCONO KNIGHT 32 C Jones 5-10-13	G Upton
9	PF43	RUTLAND GATE 11 (G) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-10-8	R Greene
10	F0PU	STORM FALCON 32 S Mellor 5-10-7	Chris Webb (7)
11	04P5	MACKABEE 33 Mrs J Pitman 6-10-6	W Marston
12	46-0	MANDYS LAD 7 R Dickin 6-10-6	D Meredith (3)
13	500	GLORIOUS ISLAND 28 T Forster 5-10-3	A P McCoy
14	00-0	NORMAN WARRIOR 58 Mrs E Heath 6-10-3	R Supple
15	000	CALL THE BUREAU 23 H Haynes 6-10-0	Mr B Pollock (7)
16	0505	ANOTHER VINTAGE 133 P Cundell 6-10-0	N Mann
17	-030	ALDWICK COLONNADE 59 M Usher 8-10-0	DOUBTFUL

4-1 Phrose, 9-2 Quasimodo, 6-1 Mackabee, 7-1 Rutland Gate, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: O Sherwood, 5 winners from 18 runners, 27.8%. M Pipe, 31 from 93, 22.6%. T Forster, 13 from 61, 21.3%. P Hobbs, 15 from 64, 20.3%. D Nicholson, 12 from 68, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: Mr A Hill, 3 winners from 7 rides, 42.9%. A P McCoy, 3 from 10, 30.0%. S Curran, 6 from 26, 23.1%. J Lower, 3 from 15, 20.0%. R Greene, 4 from 21, 19.0%. B Clifford, 3 from 19, 15.8%.

BANGOR

THUNDERER
2.10 Myland. 2.40 Cashew King. 3.10 Kytton Castle. 3.45 Rimouski. 4.15 Manor Rhyme. 4.45 Celtic Abbey. 5.15 Must Be Magical.

Brian Beel: 2.40 Al Hashimi. 4.45 Celtic Abbey.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.10 CREWE NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,004: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1	010	THE HATCHER 117 (B,G) Mrs J Renfree-Barons 7-11-9	R Greene
2	00	CLOD HOPPER 28 Mrs H Parrott 5-11-3	V Slattery
3		EZZY'S BOY C Weedon 7-11-3	N Mann
4	4520	KINGS SERMON 18 P Beaumont 6-11-3	B Grattan (7)
5	230	MYLAND 38 O Sherwood 6-11-3	J A McCarthy
6	0P06	ROGER DE MOWBRAY 33 R Brotherton 5-11-3	L Harvey
7	6505	SEYMOUR SPY 29 Mrs A Hewitt 6-11-3	S Wynne (3)
8	F63?	SIGMA RUN 18 (S) J Edwards 6-11-3	D Bentley
9	0	FAVOURITE SONG 595 P Bradley 7-10-12	B Harding (5)
10	5-5	[illegible] 105 N Henderson 6-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
11	00	[illegible] 7 T Caldwell 4-10-10	Pat Caldwell

2-1 Myland, 9-4 Sigma Run, 11-4 The Hatcher, 12-1 Ezzy's Boy, 14-1 others.

2.40 OVERTON OPEN HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,851: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	5-00	AL HASHIMI 53 (F,G,S) N Ridout 11-12-7	N Ridout (7)
2	FP42	BLAZE OF MAJESTY 13P T Caldwell 7-12-0	G R Barlow (7)
3	FPPP	CASHEW KING 20P (F,G,S) Mrs J Wall 12-12-0	S Joynes (7)
4	PPPP	HYMER 23P (S) E Llewellyn 9-12-0	J L Llewellyn (5)
5	PP-4	SOUTH POOL 21P (V,F,G,S) Mrs C Hardinge 11-12-0	D S Jones (7)
6	0461	SPY'S DELIGHT 7P (F) E Woolley 9-12-0	Mr E Woolley (7)

2-1 Al Hashimi, 5-2 Spy's Delight, 7-2 Cashew King, 6-1 South Pool, 10-1 others.

3.10 HALIWELL LANDAU NOVICES CHASE
(£4,104: 2m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	F213	WHIPPERS DELIGHT 11 (G,S) G Charles-Jones 7-11-7	M A Fitzgerald
2	UPP3	ALDINGTON CHAPPLE 17 (F,G) B Preece 7-11-3	T Wall
3	5F04	BUTLER JOHN 11 (G) J Edwards 6-11-3	D Bentley
4	3-03	KING'S SHILLING 5 (F,G,S) H Oliver 8-11-3	R Davis
5	5562	NADIAD 17 (V,F,G) D McCain 9-11-3	D McCain
6	5154	KYTTON CASTLE 7 (G,S) R Dickin 8-11-2	D Meredith

9-4 King's Shilling, 11-4 Kytton Castle, 7-2 Whippers Delight, 11-2 Butler John, 7-1 Nadiad, 10-1 Aldington Chapple.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Brooks, 6 winners from 18 runners, 33.3%. M Pipe, 21 from 71, 29.6%. O Sherwood, 4 from 17, 23.5%. Mrs A Hewitt, 5 from 30, 16.7%. R Dickin, 5 from 31, 16.1%. J Edwards, 5 from 42, 11.9%.

JOCKEYS: Jacqui Oliver, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%. A Tory, 3 from 8, 37.5%. L Harvey, 4 from 29, 13.8%. S Wynne, 5 from 48, 10.4%. Only qualifiers.

3.45 COOPERS & LYBRAND HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,680: 3m) (12)

1	1241	VILLAGE REINDEER 19 (D,F,G,S) P Calver 5-12-0	L Wyer
2	-453	ALLEZ WIJINS 143 (G,S) N Henderson 6-12-0	M A Fitzgerald
3	43P5	NIRVANA PRINCE 73F (F,S) B Preece 6-11-12	T Wall
4	2204	CUNNINGHAMS FORD 10 (B,F,S) O Sherwood 7-11-8	J A McCarthy
5	5544	ULURU 17 (D,F,G) C Nash 7-10-11	J R Kavanagh
6	4331	FORTUNES COURSE 28 (CD,G,S) J King 6-10-8	G Upton
7	3000	RIMOUSKI 35 (D,G) B Cambidge 7-10-6	Mr J Cambidge
8	0434	SILLIAN 156 (F,G,S) Mrs A Hewitt 13-10-2	S Wynne (3)
9	1105	KNIGHTS 35 (D,F,G) H Oliver 9-10-1	Jacqui Oliver
10	/P	FORGET THE REST 53 (D,G,S) J Smith 10-10-0	A S Smith
11	3-63	WESTWELL BOY 28 (G) P Beaumont 9-10-0	B Grattan (7)
12	0630	FREE DANCER 24 (S) R Brotherton 5-10-0	L Harvey

7-2 Allez Wijins, 4-1 Village Reindeer, 9-2 Fortunes Course, 5-1 Uluru, 8-1 Cunninghams Ford, Westwell Boy, 12-1 Forget The Rest, 16-1 others.

4.15 BROOKES BELL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,241: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1	02F6	MUGONI BEACH 11 (G,S) M Pipe 10-11-10	L Harvey
2	55UF	NANO WARRIOR 5 (F) B Preece 8-11-0	T Wall
3	-311	LLACCA SAM 23 (G) M Eckley 8-10-2	M A Fitzgerald
4	4-3P	CHALIE RICHARDS 157 D McCain 8-10-1	D McCain
5	UPU0	CANTOR'S FRATER 10 Mrs J Pitman 8-10-0	A S Smith
6	P345	MANOR RHYME 11 J McConnochie 8-10-0	A Tory
7	5-6P	ON THE TEAR 11 (B) F Lloyd 9-10-0	Gary Lyons
8	5PF6	SUNGIA 35 R Bridgwater 6-10-0	J Lodder

7-4 Llacca Sam, 5-2 Cantor's Frater, 3-1 Mugoni Beach, 8-1 Manor Rhyme, 10-1 Nano Warrior, 20-1 Chalie Richards, 25-1 others.

4.45 JANE McALPINE MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,274: 3m 110yd) (8)

1	23F4	CELTIC ABBEY 29 (F,G,S) Mrs C Hardinge 7-12-7	D S Jones (7)
2	1322	ESPY 31 (D,F,G,S) C Brooks 12-12-7	E James (7)
3	5U14	CHARDEN 7 (G,S) J Mullins 9-12-4	R Webb-Bowen (7)
4	-201	WELSH LEGION 14P (D,F,G,S) G Lewis 10-12-4	Miss S Duckett (7)
5	-P12	AMBROSE 13P (F,G,S) Mrs T Ritson 8-12-0	W Ritson (7)
6	3102	BALDA BOY 42P (D,G,S) R Bevis 11-12-0	R Bevis (7)
7	PF11	BARON 7P (D,F,G,S) M Mullineaux 12-12-0	D Barlow (7)
8	6411	MY NOMINEE 7P (B,F,G) D Nicholls 7-12-0	A Griffith (7)

11-10 Celtic Abbey, 7-4 Espy, 6-1 Balda Boy, Charden, 14-1 Welsh Legion, 25-1 others.

5.15 EMRAL HANDICAP HURDLE
(£3,109: 2m 1f) (8)

1	4-61	KHALIDI 38 (G,S) D Gandolfo 6-12-0	Miss S Mitchell (7)
2	-P0U	BATTY'S ISLAND 10 (CD,G,S) B Preece 6-11-9	T Wall
3	3211	MUST BE MAGICAL 11 (CD,F,S) P Bradley 7-11-6	B Harding (5)
4	2002	ATHERTON GREEN 7 (B,D,F,G) J Glover 5-11-6	A S Smith
5	6203	MY SWAN SONG 75 (D,F,G) J Smith 10-11-5	M A Fitzgerald
6	P544	BONE SETTER 105 S Mellor 5-10-11	N Mann
7	P440	DRBLOOM 10 (S) Mrs L Murphy 7-10-3	S Wynne (3)
8	FP-U	WELSH COLUMN 316P M Scates 4-10-0	B Clarke (7)

9-4 Khalidi, 11-4 Must Be Magical, 3-1 Atherton Green, 4-1 My Swan Song, 14-1 Bone Setter, 16-1 Batty's Island, 20-1 others.

ASCOT

THUNDERER
5.15 Solo Gent. 5.45 Manamour. 6.15 Romany King. 6.45 Nahar. 7.15 Lectard. 7.50 Mr Bean.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

5.15 SILVER WILKINSON NOVICES HURDLE (£3,794: 2m 4f) (12 runners) SKY

1	2164	SOLO GENT 141 (F) [illegible]	S McNeill
2	5120	TAGS 39 (S) [illegible]	D Bridgwater
3	P	BADBURY BOY [illegible]	Mr M Armytage
4	50	CALL ME BLUE [illegible]	M Payne (7)
5	-25P	FINNIGAN FREE 154 [illegible]	M Bosley
6	0P0	LITTLE ROWLEY [illegible]	Peter Hobbs
7	6C0	[illegible]	Pat Thompson (7)
8	-604	MR BUSKER 25 [illegible]	J Osborne
9	3	RAMAZONA BEAU [illegible]	B Powell
10	PP50	PLATO'S REPUBLIC 15 (F) [illegible]	G McCourt
11	0P0	LYPHARD'S FABLE 28 [illegible]	D Leahy (3)
12	0PG4	LIFE DANCING [illegible]	M Hourigan

5-4 Tags, 5-1 Solo Gent, 6-1 Ramazona Beau, 7-1 Mr Busker, 12-1 Life Dancing, 16-1 Plato's Republic, 20-1 others.

5.45 RACING CLUB NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,615: 2m 3f 110yd) (10) SKY

1	1302	FAIR BROTHER 14 (G,S) [illegible]	J Frost
2	1133	SHAARID 10F [illegible]	J Osborne
3	2411	MANEREE [illegible]	M Hourigan
4	25-6	WEST BAY 25 [illegible]	G McCourt
5	P3F1	BLACK CHURCH [illegible]	Peter Hobbs
6	10F0	DOC COTTRILL 53 [illegible]	D Bridgwater
7	5424	CREWS CASTLE 15F [illegible]	B Powell
8	PF50	EASBY MANDRINA 61 [illegible]	DOUBTFUL
9	55U1	MANAMOUR [illegible]	F Leahy (5)
10	55-3	LAUGHING GAS [illegible]	—

5-2 Fair Brother, 4-1 Maneree, [illegible] Laughing Gas, Manamour, 10-1 Doc Cottrill, 12-1 others.

6.15 TRICOLOUR AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,280: 3m 110yd) (9) SKY

1	3365	ROMANY KING 14 (CD,F,G,S) [illegible]	M Armytage
2	30P3	[illegible]	C Bonner (5)
3	-UP4	[illegible]	Mr M Naughton (7)
4	23CP	TAMMY'S FRIEND 15 [illegible]	J Rees (7)
5	U541	SYNDERBOROUGH LAD [illegible]	S Mulcaire (7)
6	F530	CHANNELS GATE 13 (G,S) [illegible] 11-10-8	M Rimell (5)
7	3236	[illegible] 22 [illegible]	J Culloty (7)
8	3261	FIGHTING DAYS 9 [illegible]	G Brown (7)
9	2530	MIGHTY FALCON 20 [illegible] 10-10-0	P Henley (7)

3-1 Romany King, [illegible] Fighting Days, [illegible] Channels Gate, Tammy's Friend, 6-1 Synderborough Lad [illegible]

6.45 SHARE IN A SYNDICATE HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,888: 2m 110yd) (7) SKY

1	0602	KILCASH 21 (B,CD,G,S) P Hedger 7-12-0	Mr C Bonner (5)
2	5UPF	HERE HE COMES 30 (D,G,S) A Moore 9-11-11	Pat Thompson (7)
3	0451	NAHAR 17 (CD,F,G) S Dow 10-11-6	D Bridgwater
4	-403	LUSTRINO 10 (B,D,G,S) C Mann 5-11-1	J Osborne
5	4534	GROUND NUT 31 (D,S) P Butler 5-10-9	B Powell
6	2220	DESTINY CALLS 14 (D,G) N Gaselee 5-10-6	M Hourigan
7	6460	RICH LIFE 31 (D,G) C Weedon 5-10-0	D Ford (5)

7-4 Nahar, 3-1 Kilcash, 9-2 Destiny Calls, 6-1 Ground Nut, 10-1 Here He Comes, Rich Life, 20-1 Lustrino.

7.15 BLACK DOCTOR NOVICES CHASE
(£4,925: 2m) (8)

1	2241	I HAVE HIM 9 (D,F,G) A Jones 8-11-10	B Powell
2	1361	LEOTARD 25 (CD,F,G,S) O Sherwood 8-11-10	J Osborne
3	1112	TIME WON'T WAIT 144 (D,BF,F,G) R Phillips 6-11-10	J Railton
4	2521	RAPID MOVER 10F (B,D,F,G) D Nolan 8-11-7	G McCourt
5	52P-	DECIDING BID 577 (F,G) J Poulton 9-11-2	R Rowell
6	35F0	GILBERT 7 (F) D Caro 7-11-2	Guy Lewis
7	-4P2	SPECULATION 14 (F) J Jenkins 13-11-2	Mr M Gingell
8	-60P	CONSORTO STAR 7 Miss S Carne 5-10-9	I Lawrence

4-6 Leotard, 7-2 I Have Him, 9-2 Time Won't Wait, 10-1 Rapid Mover, 16-1 Speculation, 33-1 Gilbert, 50-1 others.

7.50 BUY A LEG NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£5,038: 2m 110yd) (9)

1	55U2	DISTANT ECHO 21 (F) C Arbuthnot 5-11-10	S McNeill
2	F150	COLOSSUS OF ROADS 15 (D,G) T Thomson Jones 6-11-10	J Railton
3	2003	DESERT CHALLENGER 22 (V) J Jenkins 5-11-9	G McCourt
4	1152	MR BEAN 19F (D,F) K Burke 5-11-9	G Crone (7)
5	-602	MERLINS DREAM 100 O Sherwood 6-11-6	J Osborne
6	2-31	SECRETARY OF STATE 5 (D,G) C Egerton 9-11-2 (5ex)	DOUBTFUL
7	0055	ANY MINUTE NOW 5 J Akehurst 5-10-11	Peter Hobbs
8	603/	DARING TROUBLE 775 R Strange 6-10-3	I Lawrence
9	45-6	PARISIAN 52 J Sennett 10-10-0	B Powell

5-2 Merlins Dream, 7-2 Distant Echo, 4-1 Colossus Of Roads, 6-1 Desert Challenger, 8-1 Any Minute Now, 10-1 Mr Bean, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Dow, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%. I Balding, 4 from 13, 30.8%. O Sherwood, 14 from 56, 25.0%. R Alner, 3 from 13, 23.1%. K Bailey, 10 from 45, 22.2%. S Sherwood, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 28 winners from 106 rides, 26.4%. J Frost, 7 from 39, 17.9%. S McNeill, 5 from 29, 17.2%. G McCourt, 5 from 39, 12.8%. D Bridgwater, 4 from 33, 12.1%. Only qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

ASCOT: 5.15 Mr Busker. 5.45 West Bay. 7.50 Desert Challenger. AYR: 2.25 Master Of Troy. 4.05 Lo Stregone. Chatam. BANGOR: 2.10 The Hatcher. 4.45 My Nominee. 5.15 Atherton Green. NEWBURY: 5.00 Euro Forum. STRATFORD: 7.00 Ealing Court. 8.00 Viceroy Ruler. THIRSK: 3.50 Greenfinch. 4.20 Blackspot.

YESTERDAY'S [illegible]

Newbury

Going: good to firm

2.10 (5f 34yd) 1, POLISH LEGION (L Dettori, 7-1); 2, Caricature (Paul Eddery, 25-1). 3, April The Eighth (M Hills, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 8-11 fav Woodborough, 6 Martara (5th), 12 Hoh Returns, 16 Bozeman, 20 Friendly Forester (4th), 25 Current Leader, Extra Hour, 33 Man Of Wit (6th), Two Socks, 50 Blue Delight. 13 ran. NR: Dismissed. Hd, 1¼l, 1l, 1¼l, 3½l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £6.20; £1.80, £12.90, £2.40. DF: £247.10. Trio: £444.70 (part won. Pool of £563.80 carried forward to 3.30 at Newbury today). CSF: £151.13. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

2.40 (1m 3f 5yd) 1, TAMURE (L Dettori, 9-4 fav); 2, Royal Circle (K Darley, 12-1); 3, Montelurra (M J Kinane, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Vaius, 7 Taldif (6th), 8 United Force, 12 Corradini, Typhoon Eight, 14 Candle Smile (4th), 20 He Knows The Rules, Streaky Hawk, 25 Heath Robinson, 33 Peatsville, 50 Cypress Avenue (5th), Zalament. 15 ran. 2l, ¾l, 1¼l, 5l, 1l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £3.10; £1.70, £3.20, £4.30. DF: £37.90. Trio: £225.10. CSF: £29.71.

3.10 (7f 64yd) 1, AQAARID (W Carson, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Hoh Magic (M Hills, 3-1); 3, Autumn Affair (E Doyle, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 jt-fav Gay Gallanta (5th), 13-2 Loyalize, 14 All Time Great (4th), 20 Signs, 33 Fiendish (6th). 8 ran. 2½l, hd, 1½l, nk, 1¼l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £3.00; £1.30, £1.10, £4.50. DF: £6.70. CSF: £9.16.

3.40 (5f 34yd) 1, ROYALE FIGURINE (W R Swinburn, 12-1); 2, Brave Edge (R Hughes, 14-1); 3, Mister Jolson (R Cochrane, 11-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Humbert's Landing (4th), 7 Allthruthenight, 10 Crystal Magic (5th), Sir Joey (6th), 11 Lord High Admiral, 12 Ashtina, Regal Chimes, Spaniards Close, 14 Ann's Pearl, Darren Boy, 20 Eagle Day. 14 ran. Hd, 1½l, 1¼l, hd, sh hd. M Fetherston-Godley at East Ilsley. Tote: £11.70; £3.50, £5.10, £2.60. DF: £166.70. Trio: £312.40. CSF: £153.41. Tricast: £941.73. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.10 (1m) 1, CRUMPTON HILL (Paul Eddery, 12-1); 2, Ikhtiram (W Carson, 8-1); 3, Bedivere (J Reid, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Wilke Conquer (5th), 13-2 Lipizzaner (4th), 8 Chattaroy, 9 Midwich Cuckoo, 12 Bobanlyn, Myrtle Quest (6th), Shifting Moon, 20 Santa Fan, 33 Mentor, Noble Sprinter, Sylvandra. 14 ran. 2l, nk, 1l, 1l, ¾l. N Graham at Newmarket. Tote: £16.10; £3.00, £2.70, £2.00. DF: £88.30. Trio: £127.00. CSF: £97.20. Tricast: £741.02.

4.40 (7f) 1, TARHHIB (W Carson, 13-8 fav, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Farant (K Darley, 8-1); 3, Courageous Dancer (W Ryan, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Prickwillow, 10 Brave Princess, 12 Proud Destiny, 14 Academy Life (6th), All The Time (4th), Roka, 25 Amany, 33 Iridescent Blue, Lidhama, Lobana, Lovely Lyca, Mighty Squaw (5th), Sadler's Pearl, 50 Easter Coul, Lonsanginner, 66 Pacific Overture. 19 ran. Hd, 2l, 4l, nk, ½l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £2.80, £4.70. DF: £12.00. Trio: £161.10. CSF: £15.60.

5.10 (2m) 1, BOLD GAIT (D Harrison, 4-1); 2, Shadirwan (G Carter, 7-2 fav); 3, Bardolph (T Quinn, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Father Sky (4th), 11-2 Tarthooth (5th), 9 Elburg (6th), 12 Sight'n Sound, 14 Brandon Prince, 33 Requested, Romalito. 10 ran. NR: Old Provence. 3½l, 1¼l, 1½l, 3l, 1½l. J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £1.80, £3.30. DF: £9.00. CSF: £16.54. Tricast: £134.66.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £9,085.65 carried forward to Newbury today).

Placepot: £1,330.20. Quadpot: £113.90.

Ayr

Going: good, good to firm in places

2.00 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, ST MELLION FAIRWAY (T Grantham, 5-4 fav); 2, Nijki Dee (R Supple, 20-1); 3, Slotamatique (R Dunwoody, 5-2). ALSO RAN: 13-2 Spectacular Star (4th), 9 Arturo Again (6th), 14 Secret Bid, 33 Gold Pigeon (pu), Hagar (5th), 50 Canaan Valley, 66 Forever Silver (pu), 100 Over The Comb, 400 Mr Sloan. 12 ran. NR: Cherry Stone. 3l, 8l, 2½l, 6l, 25l. J Old at Wroughton. Tote: £1.70; £1.50, £2.80, £1.30. DF: £21.60. Trio: £14.00. CSF: £24.74.

2.30 (2m ch) 1, AROUND THE HORN (S McNeill, 9-4 fav); 2, Political Tower (T Reed, 11-4); 3, Cross Cannon (A Larnach, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 6 One For The Pot (5th), 13-2 Frickley (6th), 7 Rodeo Star (4th), 8 Beldine (pu). 7 ran. NR: Montpelier Lad. ½l, 2l, 15l, ¾l, 3½l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £2.10. DF: £6.80. CSF: £8.56. Tricast: £67.96.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, GROOVING (P Hide, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Lochnagrain (P Niven, 9-4 jt-fav); 3, Potter's Bay (B Harding, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Jymjam Johnny (f), 7 Tara Rambler (4th), 8 Val De Rama (6th), 20 Oneseventour (5th), 40 Calder's Grove (f), 100 Derwent Lad, Forburies. 10 ran. NR: Bangabunny, Military Academy. ¾l, 7l, 2½l, 11l, 1¼l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £1.40, £8.00. DF: £2.40. Trio: £203.60. CSF: £7.18.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, DARK OAK (L O'Hara, 11-4); 2, Seven Of Diamonds (C Maude, 13-8 fav); 3, General Pershing (R Dunwoody, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Kentish Piper (4th). 4 ran. NR: Beachy Head. ½l, 20l, 14l. J Curtis at Driffield. Tote: £3.70. DF: £2.80. CSF: £6.94.

4.00 (3m 1f ch) 1, UNGUIDED MISSILE (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 2, Brief Gale (P Hide, 4-5 fav); 3, Kilcolgan (A Thornton, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5 San Fernando (f), 7 Mad Thyme (pu), 33 Fortune's Girl (pu). 6 ran. NR: Beaurepaire, Benghazi, Paddy Morrissey. 11l, dist. G Richards at Greystoke. Tote: £5.30; £1.40, £1.50. DF: £2.80. Trio: £5.30. CSF: £7.58.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, MASTER BRACKEN (G Lee, 2-1 fav); 2, Dancing Dove (B Harding, 5-2); 3, Imhotep (W Fry, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Major's Law (5th), 10 River Island (4th), 20 Sharriba, 25 Casual Pass (6th), 33 Adrien. 8 ran. 1½l, 2l, 1¼l, 2½l, 5l. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £1.20, £1.30. DF: £2.80. CSF: £[illegible]. Tricast: £24.18.

Placepot: £15.40. Quadpot: £7.80.

Thirsk

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.15 (5f) 1, Palleman (J Weaver, 9-1); 2, Roy Boy (7-1); 3, Rolling (8-1). Shady Deed 5-2 fav. 12 ran. 1¾l, 1½l. R Boss. Tote: £16.00; £3.30, £2.70, £3.00. DF: £65.40. Trio: £374.40 (part won. Pool of £189.87 carried forward to 4.50 at Thirsk today). CSF: £70.64.

2.50 (1m 4f) 1, Bembara (M Rimmer, 16-1); 2, True Bird (16-1); 3, Mansur (4-9 fav). 8 ran. Nk, 1l. C Brittain. Tote: £22.90; £2.60, £3.00, £1.10. DF: £76.10. CSF: £193.62.

3.20 (5f) 1, Just Lady (G Duffield, 7-4 fav); 2, Double Point (7-2); 3, Patrington Park (20-1). 10 ran. 3l, 1¼l. W G M Turner. Tote: £3.50; £1.30, £1.90, £3.80. DF: £8.40. Trio: £183.70. CSF: £9.24.

3.50 (5f) 1, El Yasaf (M Wigham, 9-2); 2, Mistertopogigo (10-11 fav); 3, Ya Malak (6-1). 6 ran. Hd, 3l. G Fierro. Tote: £6.50; £2.90, £1.10. DF: £3.00. CSF: £8.92.

4.20 (6f) 1, Barge (Emma O'Gorman, 8-1 fav); 2, Russian Heroine (8-1); 3, Miss Whittingham (12-1); 4, Kalar (14-1). 19 ran. 4l, 1½l. W O'Gorman. Tote: £5.90; £1.90, £1.80, £4.10, £3.00. DF: £31.80. Trio: £523.20. CSF: £56.83. Tricast: £545.41.

4.50 (7f) 1, African Chimes (Emma O'Gorman, 12-1); 2, Souperficial (11-2 fav); 3, Sycamore Lodge (14-1); 4, Sobering Thoughts (10-1). 18 ran. 1¾l, 1½l. W O'Gorman. Tote: £31.90; £5.70, £1.40, £4.00, £2.20. DF: £37.10. Trio: £246.30. CSF: £75.93. Tricast: £882.00.

Placepot: £299.80. Quadpot: £23.40.

Taunton

Going: hard

5.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Owens Delight (R Darke, 7-4); 2, Mountain Leader (5-1); 3, Mr Playfull (10-11 fav). 4 ran. 4l, 9l. R Frost. Tote: £3.20. DF: £7.10. CSF: £8.96.

5.50 (3m ch) 1, Powder Boy (A Tory, 5-2); 2, Mister Feathers (7-2); 3, L'Uomo Piu (13-8 fav). 4 ran. NR: Tammy's Friend. 3½l, 8l. R Hodges. Tote: £2.90. DF: £6.20. CSF: £9.61.

Uttoxeter

Going: good to firm, good in places

5.35 (2m hdle) 1, The Padre (J Osborne, 8-1); 2, Jason's Boy (12-1); 3, Gray Rosette (25-1). Baron Santa 7-2 fav. 12 ran. 12l, nk. Miss H Knight. Tote: £8.00; £2.70, £4.00, £13.00. DF: £82.40. Trio: not won. CSF: £98.42. Tricast: £2,049.38.

6.05 (3m 2f ch) 1, Auto Pilot (R Greene, 5-2 jt-fav); 2, Mr Invader (6-1); 3, Wise Approach (7-2). Smith Too 5-2 jt-fav. 10 ran. NR: Castigliero, Friendly Lady. 1¾l, 12l. Mrs J Renfree-Barons. Tote: £3.40; £1.40, £2.10, £1.50. DF: £17.90. Trio: £8.40. CSF: £16.30.

[illegible] أمين الأهل

Expectations run high as classic favourite makes seasonal debut

Celtic Swing explores path to greatness

By Julian Muscat

CHRIS SMITH

Celtic Swing leaves behind the training gallops to put his reputation to the test in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury this afternoon

ALL self-respecting lovers of horse racing will be at Newbury today when the winter blankets are stripped off Celtic Swing before the Tripleprint Greenham Stakes over seven furlongs. Any anxiety should give way to spontaneous joy at around one minute after three o'clock.

On paper, Celtic Swing's eight opponents offer less of a threat than the mystifying, yet far from uncommon, trait of an irretrievable loss of form. This is amply demonstrated within the International Classifications, which have served as a barometer to thoroughbred merit since they were instituted in 1977.

Of the classification's 18 top or joint top-rated two-year-olds, only four were accorded a similar status 12 months later. The lessons of history are *not favourable, although tomorrow's test should prove little more than a stroll for* Celtic Swing. It is in the *sterner tests, later in the season,* that his scalp will be the *most prized of all.*

This near-black colt is unbeaten — and untested — in three racecourse outings. But other two-year-olds have been armed with similarly impressive credentials on the eve of their three-year-old debuts. The most notorious was Tromos, the 1978 champion juvenile, who failed to win at all the following season.

Not far behind was the Vincent O'Brien-trained Storm Bird, the champion of 1980. The following winter, a disgruntled stable lad hacked at Storm Bird's tail. The damage was purely cosmetic, although Storm Bird's racing reputation could not survive a single defeat on his only subsequent outing.

In those days of ridiculously inflated stallion fees, the reverse mattered little to a North American industrialist, who paid Robert Sangster $40 million for the colt. No such financial compensation awaits Celtic Swing's owner, Peter Savill, who has already rejected seven-figure bids from Japanese interests.

More recently there was Arazi, who destroyed the best juveniles in North America four years ago. That performance almost defied belief, yet *the handicappers of Britain, Ireland and France, who compile the International* Classifications, rated Celtic Swing on a par with Arazi. They were accorded a mark of 130, the highest on record.

Unlike Arazi, whose three-year-old season was plagued by a faulty knee, Celtic Swing *has apparently thrived over the winter recess. Lady Herries, who trains the Damister colt at her Angmering Park estate in west Sussex, has strongly denied rumours* of ill-health, of internal bleeding problems, and of injury.

Ten days ago, Lady Anne invited the media to observe her colt stride along in his own time. If the exercise prompted a flood of eulogies from an *expectant press,* Celtic Swing *will be shown no such respect by his equine opponents.*

Predictably, Celtic Swing's *seasonal debut has dominated* racecourse talk. It has been refreshing to hear rival trainers express the hope that he is truly an outstanding racehorse. To a man, they will gladly concede superiority to a woman — *for a season, at least. They recognise that an outstanding racehorse attracts outsiders to the sport.*

In Celtic Swing's favour is the clear inference that he was bred to reach his peak this year. He is no product of the American speedlines that have so influenced British breeders over the last 20 years. However, *it would be folly to expect* him to improve. As with every *other species, there are equine freaks. Only in June, after the* Derby, *can we be sure of Celtic Swing's place in the pantheon of thoroughbred champions.*

Hype and glory, page 1
Leading article, page 19

Nap: Moments Of Fortune
(3.20 Thirsk)
Next best: Batabanoo
(3.25 Ayr)

MONDAY: Brighton (first race, 2.00), Nottingham (2.15), Chepstow (5.30), Sedgefield (5.45).
TUESDAY: Folkestone (2.30), Pontefract (2.45).
WEDNESDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.10), *Kempton Park (5.30), Southwell (AW, 2.25)*, Newton Abbot (5.45), Perth (8.30).
THURSDAY: Beverley (2.10), Warwick (5.30), Exeter (5.45), Fontwell Park (2.20), Perth (2.00).
FRIDAY: Carlisle (2.10), Sandown Park (C4, 2.00), Ludlow (5.50), Perth (2.20), Taunton (5.35).
SATURDAY: Leicester (2.00), Ripon (2.05), Sandown Park (C4, 2.10), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Hexham (5.50), Market Rasen (2.15), Worcester (5.40).

Flat meetings in bold

☐ The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee will consider an appeal by *Jeff Smith*, the owner of *Blue Siren*, against the *disqualification of his filly* from the *East Riding Stakes* at Beverley on April 8.

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STAKIS CASINOS SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL
4m 1f Handicap Chase. Ayr 4.05pm. Live on CH4.

11/2	Royal Athlete	25/1	Cool Ground
7/1	Lo Stregone	25/1	Dakyns Boy
8/1	Uranus Collonges	25/1	Do Be Brief
9/1	Arthur's Minstrel	25/1	Petty Bridge
9/1	Meleagris	33/1	Hillwalk
9/1	Sweet Duke	50/1	Annio Chilone
10/1	Musthaveaswig	66/1	Cythere
11/1	Mr Woodcock	66/1	Off The Bru
14/1	Willsford	66/1	Plenty Crack
16/1	Chatam	66/1	Spikey
20/1	Petoski	250/1	Crown Eyeglass

E/W one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4.

LADBROKES SPRING CUP
1m Handicap. Newbury 3.30 pm. Live on BBC.

6/1	Sharp Prospect	16/1	Dance Turn
7/1	Indian Fly	16/1	Gadge
8/1	Royal Hill	20/1	Embankment
10/1	Brave Patriarch	20/1	Master Beveled
10/1	Pay Homage	20/1	Mellottie
10/1	Sheppard's Cross	20/1	Star Manager
11/1	Roving Minstrel	25/1	Knobbleeneeze
14/1	Jawaal	33/1	Geisway
16/1	Chickawicka	33/1	Perilous Plight
16/1	Czarna	40/1	Highland Magic

E/W one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4.
In the event of any withdrawal(s) SP place terms and Tattersalls rule 4(c) may apply.

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Ladbrokes
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THUNDERER

1.55 Stormy Coral
2.25 Trump
2.55 Morceli
3.25 Batabanoo
4.05 Chatam
4.40 Brave Highlander
5.10 Chiparus
5.40 Ebullient Equiname

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES — SIS

1.55 ALBERT BARTLETT & SONS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£5,238: 2m 6f) (13 runners)

1	F-11208	MR KNITWIT 7 (C,G) (M Mills) G Richards 8-11-12	R Dunwoody	88
2	6-2121P	WINDSWEPT LADY 28 (G,S) (Mrs S McDonald) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-6	P Niven	84
3	342525	DEDUCE 57 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Sherwood) J White 6-11-5	N Williamson	90
4	211P0	GIVUS A CALL 38 (D,S) (T Benfield and Mr W Brown) J Gifford 5-11-3	E Murphy	87
5	021F31	LIVIO 21 (G,S) (The Low Flyers (Thoroughbreds) Ltd) L Lungo 4-11-2	F Perratt (3)	85
6	335010	LEAD VOCALIST 36 (S) (Capt A Pratt) R Rowe 6-10-13	D O'Sullivan	84
7	310332	DOCKMASTER 19 (S) (J Gordon) Miss M Milligan 4-10-10	Richard Guest	85
8	3312	ISLAND CHIEF 29 (S) (Go Dilger) P Beaumont 6-10-10	R Supple	90
9	D-411P0	NOW YOUNG MAN 32 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Mitchell) Mrs A Swinbank 6-10-8	J Railton	83
10	3-10661	OAKLEY 11 (D,F) (Duke of Sutherland) Denys Smith 6-10-5	M Dwyer	94
11	063F16	STORMY CORAL 11 (S) (CD) (R Green) C Parker 5-10-0	Mr D Parker (5)	[illegible]
12	0/0046	MELLION PRIDE 31 (St Mellion Estates Ltd) J Old 7-10-0	T Grantham	98
13	0P5002	MARKED CARD 5 (Mrs M Kendall) Mrs M Kendall 7-10-0	Mrs M Kendall	72

Long handicap: Stormy Coral 9-11, Mellion Pride 9-8, Marked Pride 7-12.

BETTING: 4-1 Windswept Lady, 9-2 Mr Knitwit, 5-1 Island Chief, 6-1 Livio, 8-1 Dockmaster, 10-1 others.

1994: OUTSET 4-11-3 Mr C Bonner (5-2) M Hammond 8 ran

2.25 HARCROS HELPING YOU BUILD HANDICAP HURDLE SERIES FINAL (£11,060: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

C4

1	1-01632	MAJOR BELL 16 (CD,F,G,S) (A Whillans) A Whillans 7-12-0	M Moloney	93
2	1-04341	NO PAIN NO GAIN 40 (G,S) (The Marvellous Partnership) J Gifford 7-10-10	E Murphy	90
3	111726	TRUMP 33 (CD,G,S) (R Green) C Parker 6-10-9	B Storey	97
4	2004-06	BELLTON 32 (F,S) (R Green) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-10-8	M Dwyer	89
5	3F-0013	VAYRUA 31 (B,CD,G,S) (J Hellens (Contracts) Ltd) J Hellens 10-10-6	A Lamach	98
6	3P06F4	ABBOT OF FURNESS 28 (CD,S) (Lord Cavendish) G Richards 11-10-3	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
7	142040	PLUMBOB 16 (D,G) (Kenmore Estates Ltd) Mrs S Bradburne 6-10-0	N Williamson	92
8	03F644	*MASTER OF TROY 7 (V,C,G,S) (Chilton Fawcett) C Parker 7-10-0*	Mr D Parker (5)	89
9	441410	NICHOLAS PLANT 57 (CD,S) (Mrs M Paterson) J Goldie 6-10-0	F Perratt (3)	73

Long handicap: Plumbob 9-11, Master Of Troy 9-3, Nicholas Plant 8-8.

BETTING: 5-2 No Pain No Gain, 7-2 Major Bell, 4-1 Trump, 6-1 Abbot Of Furness, 7-1 Vayrua, 8-1 others.

1994: CROMARTY 4-10-5 M Dwyer (9-1) J J O'Neill 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAJOR BELL 1l 2nd of 17 to What A Question in handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good) with PLUMBOB (32lb better off) 48l 13th. NO PAIN NO GAIN beat Mrs Moneypenny 3½l in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft). TRUMP 1¼l 2nd of 9 to Tranchetto in handicap hurdle at Edinburgh (3m, good to soft). VAYRUA 11l 3rd of 7 to Artic Wings in Towcester handicap hurdle (2m 5f, good to soft). ABBOT OF FURNESS 11l 4th of 11 to Fortunes Course in handicap hurdle at Bangor (3m, good to soft). PLUMBOB about 8¾l 4th of 8 to Cash Chase in a handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm). MASTER OF TROY about 7l 4th of 10 to Exemplar in Carlisle handicap hurdle (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm).
Selection: ABBOT OF FURNESS

2.55 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL'S FUTURE CHAMPION NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £13,736: 2m) (3 runners)

C4

1	131151	MORCELI 16 (D,G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) J Johnson 7-11-10	N Williamson	98
2	41F342	DANCING PADDY 16 (D,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 7-11-7	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
3	121111	WEE RIVER 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Moore) G Moore 6-11-3	J Callaghan	81

BETTING: 4-6 Morceli, 7-4 Dancing Paddy, 6-1 Wee River.

1994: SEE MORE INDIANS 7-11-8 R Dunwoody (7-2) P Nicholls 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

MORCELI beat DANCING PADDY (3lb better off) 1½l in grade I Sandeman Novice Chase at Aintree (2m, good). DANCING PADDY 21½l 4th of 11 to Klairon Davis in grade I Guinness Arkle Chase at Cheltenham (2m, soft) with MORCELI (3lb worse off) 7l 5th. WEE RIVER beat The Toaster 3l in *novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 1f, firm).*
Selection: MORCELI

3.25 DAILY STAR SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade II: £12,660: 2m) 4 runners)

C4

1	10-4133	BATABANOO 14 (D,F,G,S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 6-11-10	P Niven	[illegible]
2	413450	GREAT MARQUESS 15 (D,S) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-2	C Llewellyn	74
3	512237	HOME COUNTIES 37 (D,G,S) (Roxy Cinemas Ltd) D Moffatt 6-11-2	D J Moffatt	96
4	0/11430	SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 15 (D,S) (Mrs M Mobey) K Bailey 7-11-2	N Williamson	92

BETTING: 6-4 Batabanoo, 9-4 Simple Arithmetic, 3-1 Home Counties, 9-2 Great Marquess.

1994: CORROUGE 6-11-2 D Bridgwater (4-1) N Twiston-Davies 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BATABANOO 3l 3rd of 13 to Thinking Twice in *handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to firm).* HOME COUNTIES beat Family Way head in 23-runner grade III County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft) with GREAT MARQUESS (15lb worse off) 8¾l 5th. SIMPLE ARITHMETIC 2l and head 3rd of 20 to Tourist Attraction in grade I Supreme Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: BATABANOO

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Pipe	3	7	42.9	N Williamson	3	10	30.0
N Twiston-Davies	3	7	42.9	P Niven	39	147	26.5
Mrs M Reveley	35	116	30.2	R Garritty	3	13	23.1
C Thornton	6	20	30.0	J Supple	5	22	22.7
P Beaumont	3	12	25.0	M Dwyer	14	72	19.4
J Jefferson	5	21	23.8	B Storey	25	181	13.8

4.05 STAKIS CASINOS SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL
(Grade III: handicap chase: (£35,650: 4m 1f) (22 runners)

C4

1	1F256F	CHATAM 14 (B,F,G,S) (A Nolan) M Pipe 11-11-7	R Dunwoody	96
2	F-38251	*ROYAL ATHLETE 14 (C,F,G,S) (G & L Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 12-11-7*	J F Titley	[illegible]
3	131114	SWEET DUKE 38 (G,S) (A Mavrou) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-1	C Llewellyn	90
4	412118	WILLSFORD 28 (D,G,S) (A Kaplan) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-12	R Farrant	90
5	24U24U	*DAKYNS BOY 14 (G,S) (A Parker) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-12*	C Maude	85
6	4PP310	COOL GROUND 14 (F,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Stables) D Elsworth 13-10-10	P Holley	89
7	3-12124	LO STREGONE 39 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs S Clegg) T Tate 9-10-4	R Garritty	93
8	311120	MELEAGRIS 18 (F,G,S) (D Jackson) D Nicholson 11-10-0	D Gallagher	92
9	P31242	MUSTHAVEASWIG 15 (G) (P Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 9-10-0	C Swan	91
10	F321F2	*ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 35 (F,G,S) (B Hathaway) D Nicholson 8-10-0*	N Williamson	90
11	111-312	MR WOODCOCK 32 (F,G,S) (P Tylor) Mrs M Reveley 10-10-0	P Niven	89
12	42355F	DO BE BRIEF 14 (B,G,S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-0	W Marston	88
13	51F125	*PETOSKU 38 (G,S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0*	R Bellamy	80
14	21511P	URANUS COLLONGES 16 (G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-10-0	M Dwyer	78
15	5-006P5	PLENTY CRACK 7 (C,G,S) (B Mactaggart) B Mactaggart 12-10-0	B Storey	72
16	340-UR3	CYTHERE 7 (S) (K Carr) J Gifford 11-10-0	E Murphy	79
17	11116P	PETTY BRIDGE 38 (F,G,S) (C T & R G Boustead) A James 11-10-0	Mr R Johnson (7)	71
18	50P0-5U	OFF THE BRU 29 (V,C,F,G) (G Lochtie) Mrs S Bradburne 10-10-0	Mr J Bradburne	68
19	253P33	SPIKEY 25 (G) (S Powell) J Jenkins 9-10-0	J Callaghan	76
20	140454	ANNIO CHILONE 23 (G,S) (Miss J Semple) J Gifford 9-10-0	L Aspell (7)	74
21	634P61	*HILLWALK 7 (F,G,S) (M Stone) R Curtis 9-10-0*	*D Morris*	78
22	222-31P	CROWN EYEGLASS 199 (G,S) (Crown Eyeglass Plc) R Woodhouse 9-10-0	O Pears	54

Long handicap: Meleagris 9-13, Musthaveaswig 9-12, Arthur's Minstrel 9-12, Mr Woodcock 9-11, Do Be Brief 9-11, Petosku 9-8, Uranus Collonges 9-7, Plenty Crack 9-6, Cythere 9-4, Petty Bridge 9-4, Off The Bru 9-3, Spikey 9-1, Annio Chilone 9-0, Hillwalk 8-12, Crown Eyeglass 6-13.

BETTING: 5-1 Royal Athlete, 7-1 Lo Stregone, 8-1 Uranus Collonges, Sweet Duke, 9-1 Arthur's Minstrel, Meleagris, 10-1 Musthaveaswig, Mr Woodcock, 14-1 Willsford, 16-1 Chatam, 20-1 Petosku, 25-1 others.

1994: EARTH SUMMIT 6-10-0 D Bridgwater (16-1) N Twiston-Davies 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

ROYAL ATHLETE *beat Party Politics 7l in grade III* Martell Grand National at Aintree (4m 4f, good) with COOL GROUND (5lb better off) 46l 11th. CHATAM *towards rear when fell 12th.* DAKYN'S BOY *(3lb better off) in rear until unseated rider 10th* and DO BE BRIEF (15lb better off) fell 20th. SWEET DUKE 36l *4th of 13 to Brief Gale in grade I Sun Alliance* Novice Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, soft) with PETOSKU (13lb better off) distance 5th. LO STREGONE 22l 4th to Flyer's Nap in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, soft). MELEAGRIS *28l 8th to Dublin Flyer in handicap chase at Aintree* (3m 6f, good) with URANUS COLLONGES pulled up 10th. MUSTHAVEASWIG 1½l 2nd to Flashthecash *in handicap chase at Aintree (3m 1f, good to firm).* ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 1¾l 2nd to Lucky Lane in grade III Midlands National at Uttoxeter (4m 2f, soft) with DAKYN'S BOY (2lb worse off) distance 4th and PLENTY CRACK pulled up 19th. MR WOODCOCK 2½l 2nd to Deep Decision in handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm). DO BE BRIEF 15l 5th to Rough Quest in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, soft) with CHATAM (4lb better off) 5l 6th and PETTY BRIDGE pulled up 3 out. HILLWALK beat Sacaville 8l in handicap *chase at Towcester (2m 6f, good to firm)* with CYTHERE (6lb better off) 4l 3rd.
Selection: PETOSKU

4.40 STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS YOUNG CHASERS QUALIFIER (Novices: £3,571: 2m 4f (11 runners)

C4

1	2F1435	BRAVE HIGHLANDER 36 (B,S) (S Embiricos) J Gifford 7-11-12	E Murphy	[illegible]
2	11F302	MASTER BOSTON 25 (G,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 7-11-12	M Dwyer	97
3	PF2142	GOLDEN FIDDLE 18 (CD,S) (W Wilson) J Oliver 7-11-8	B Storey	79
4	3124PU	YEOMAN WARRIOR 29 (S) (Mrs H Alwen) R Rowe 8-11-8	D O'Sullivan	83
5	65PF2U	HENRY VILL 17 (G) (Racobu Racing) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4	C Llewellyn	75
6	6410/5	JUDICIOUS CAPTAIN 145 (S) (J Adam) J Adam 8-11-4	M Moloney	–
7	40F44F	KELPIE THE CELT 11 (Mrs C Bradburne) Mrs S Bradburne 8-11-4	R Murphy (7)	67
8	4-42660	*MAN OF MOREEF 33 (Colonel D C Greig) J Oliver 8-11-4*	Mr D Parker (5)	82
9	6/3122P-	SAVOY 435 (G) (R Ogden) G Richards 8-11-4	R Dunwoody	–
10	12P145-	SHAWWELL 350 (F,G) (Mrs J Stalker) J Charlton 8-11-4	K Johnson	–
11	223222	WALLS COURT 18 (G Swinbank) Mrs A Swinbank 8-11-4	J F Titley	75

BETTING: 9-4 Master Boston, 3-1 Brave Highlander, 5-1 Yeoman Warrior, 6-1 Savoy, 8-1 Golden Fiddle, 12-1 Henry Vill, 14-1 Shawwell, 20-1 others.

1994: MARTOMICK 7-11-7 N Williamson (Evens fav) K Bailey 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRAVE HIGHLANDER 17½l 5th of 11 to Super Matt in novices' handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). MASTER BOSTON 15l 2nd of 5 to Oatis Regrets in novice chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). GOLDEN FIDDLE 3l 2nd of 9 to Magic Rain *in handicap chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, heavy).* YEOMAN WARRIOR best effort this term beat Denver Bay 1l in novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good to soft). HENRY VILL 11l 2nd of 8 to Maamur in novice chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft). KELPIE THE CELT *best recent effort* 6½l 4th of 10 to Leading Prospect in novice chase at Edinburgh (3m, good). WALLS COURT *head 2nd of 12 to Last Refuge in maiden* chase at Hexham (2m 4f 110yd, heavy).
Selection: BRAVE HIGHLANDER (nap)

5.10 GOLD CUP HOSPITALITY OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(Div I: £1,340: 2m) (14 runners)

1	1	BOLD FOUNTAIN 47 (G) (J Robson) G Moore 4-11-3	N Bentley	–
2		*CASTLEBAY 606 (Third Degree Racing) L Lungo 5-11-2*	*T Reed*	–
3		CHIPARUS (A Kaplan) K Bailey 6-11-2	C Llewellyn	–
4	550	CLAVERHOUSE 26 (Mrs P Corbett) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-2	W Dwan	–
5		*CLAVERING (B Maguire) J Johnson 5-11-2*	D Gallagher	–
6		DOMINO NIGHT (R Haggas) G Richards 5-11-2	R Dunwoody	–
7	8	SINGING SAND 35 (Hamilton House Ltd) P Monteith 5-11-2	G Cahill (7)	–
8	0	SIR TURTLE 28 (P Wilby) R Rowe 5-11-2	D O'Sullivan	–
9		MONYNUT (A Wight) A Wight 6-10-11	P Niven	–
10		MOORE VIEW (J Dixon) M Barnes 5-10-11	N Leach	–
11		THROWEDOWNSOMETHING (F Flynn) Mrs D Thomson 5-10-11	J Supple (5)	–
12		FLAMING FRED (R Green) C Parker 4-10-10	B Storey	–
13		HIGHBEATH (Mrs M Scholey) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-10	R Hodge	–
14		THE TIGER HUNTER (Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 4-10-10	M Dwyer	–

BETTING: 5-2 Bold Fountain, 5-1 Chiparus, 6-1 Highbeath, Domino Night, 7-1 The Tiger Hunter, 8-1 others.

1994: CALL EQUINAME 4-10-12 F Perratt (7-4 fav) D Eddy 15 ran

5.40 GOLD CUP HOSPITALITY OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(Div II: £1,329: 2m) (14 runners)

1	131	EBULLIENT EQUINAME 10 (G,S) (Mrs P Covey) D Eddy 4-11-6	M Dwyer	–
2	0	BLOND MOSS 47 (Miss L Wilson) J Hellens 5-11-2	A Lamach (3)	–
3		BOLD ACCOUNT (J Robson) G Moore 5-11-2	N Bentley	–
4		*EXTERIOR PROFILES (Exterior Profiles Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2*	K Brown (7)	–
5		MEAD COURT (M Worcester) J Jefferson 5-11-2	P Niven	–
6		NORMANS PROFIT (W Young) W Young 5-11-2	R Murphy (7)	–
7	60	*SWISS GOLD 47 (The Acorts) Miss M Milligan 5-11-2*	*Richard Guest*	–
8		*THE TOYMAN (J Hales) G Richards 6-11-2*	M Moloney	–
9		DECENT PENNY (G Stevenson) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-11	R Hodge	–
10		*KIRTLE SUPERSTAR (R Hope) L Lungo 6-10-11*	F Perratt (3)	–
11	0	BOUND FOR GOLD 28 M Pipe 4-10-10	R Dunwoody	–
12		ONLY CHANCE (A Eubank) M Barnes 4-10-10	N Leach	–
13	0	SHREWD THOUGHT 33 (R Green) C Parker 4-10-10	B Storey	–
14		STORM DANCE (G Reed) C Thornton 4-10-10	Mark Roberts (7)	–

BETTING: 2-1 Ebullient Equiname, 6-1 Decent Penny, Exterior Profiles, 8-1 The Toyman, Mead Court, 10-1 others.

1994, NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

TODAY'S POINT-TO-POINT FIXTURES: Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Kingston Blount, 4m NE of Watlington (first race, 1.30); Cumberland, Aspatria, 2m NE of town (2.00); Dartmoor, Flete Park, 2m N of Modbury (2.00); Fitzwilliam, Cottenham, 5m N of Cambridge (2.00); Meynell and South Staffs, Sandon, 4m SE of Stone (2.00). Pentyrch, Llanwit Major, 2m NW of town (2.00), Quorn, Garthorpe, 6m E of Melton Mowbray (2.15); South and West Wilts, Larkhill, 3m NW of Amesbury (2.00); West Kent, Penshurst, 4m SW of Tonbridge (2.00); Worcestershire, Chaddesley Corbett, *6m W of Bromsgrove (1.00);* York and Ainsty, Easingwold, 13m NW of York (2.00).

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Lucky Di
2.30 Broadway Flyer
3.00 Celtic Swing
3.30 PAY HOMAGE (nap)
4.00 Desert Harvest
4.30 Bearnaise
5.00 Mistinguett

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 ZILZAL ZAMAAN.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Lucky Di. 2.30 Zilzal Zamaan.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.00 ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL RACECOURSE CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O. £8,600: 1m 3f 5yd) (8 runners)

BBC1

101	(3)	0201-	STIFFELIO 194 (G) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 9-1	L Dettori	97
102	(2)	055120-	GREAT CRUSADER 174 (G) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 8-13	T Ives	97
103	(1)	1-4	GREY SHOT 17 (S) (J Smith) I Balding 8-13	R Cochrane	93
104	(6)	1	LUCKY DI 17 (S) (Mrs V Knox Bender) L Cumani 8-13	J Weaver	[illegible]
105	(8)	1-	NASH TERRACE 214 (S) (Lord Weinstock & S Weinstock) R Charlton 8-13	J Reid	91
106	(7)	13-	POSIDONAS 189 (G) (A Christodoulou) P Cole 8-13	T Quinn	89
107	(4)	1-	STELVIO 177 (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 8-13	W Ryan	85
108	(5)	321-	EVEZIO RUFO 153 (S) (G Mazza) J Dunlop 8-11	K Darley	76

BETTING: 5-2 Stelvio, 3-1 Lucky Di, 9-2 Nash Terrace, 5-1 Stiffelio, 8-1 Posidonas, 10-1 Great Crusader, 12-1 Evezio Rufo, 14-1 Grey Shot.

1994: BROADWAY FLYER 8-12 M Hills (15-2) J Hills 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

STIFFELIO *beat* GREAT CRUSADER *(6lb better off)* 3½l in conditions stakes at Leicester (1m 2f, good). GREAT CRUSADER beat juvenile d'Ion beat *Crystal Blade 3l in maiden at Bath (1m 2f, good).* GREY SHOT 6½l 4th of 7 to Torrential in conditions stakes at Ripon (1m 1f, good to soft). LUCKY DI *beat Amaneh ½l in 18-runner maiden at Ripon* (1m, good to soft). NASH TERRACE beat Crowned *Glory 8l in 14-runner maiden at Kempton (1m, soft).* POSIDONAS 5¼l 3rd of 8 to Royal Philosopher in conditions stakes at Doncaster (1m, soft). STELVIO beat *Hajraat Alchemaat 2½l in 13-runner* maiden at Nottingham (1m, good). EVEZIO RUFO beat Franchutter ½l in maiden at Folkestone (1m 1f *149yd, soft) on penultimate start.*
Selection: NASH TERRACE

2.30 LANES END JOHN PORTER STAKES
(Group III: £22,020: 1m 4f 5yd) (10 runners)

BBC1

201	(3)	2/21212-	RIVER NORTH 209 (D,G,S) (P Savill) Lady Herries 5-9-5	K Darley	90
202	(2)	4/11104-	RIGHT WIN 188 (CD,F,G,S) (C Kavanagh) R Hannon 5-9-3	Pat Eddery	95
203	(7)	300345-	SHAMBO 182 (C,D,F,G) (Mrs C Brittain) C Brittain 8-9-1	B Doyle	87
204	(10)	101320-	BROADWAY FLYER 202 (C,D,F,G,S) (S Al Kabeer) J Hills 4-9-0	M Hills	97
205	(1)	1/110-	LINNEY HEAD 325 (G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-0	L Dettori	90
206	(4)	5400-15	WAYNE COUNTY 7 (D,F,G,S) (OSH Racing Ltd) G Fierro 5-8-12	J Weaver	73
207	(8)	62112-2	COTTEIR CHIEF 28 (D,F,G,S) (J Hendler) M Pipe 4-8-11	R Cochrane	98
208	(6)	112/	ESCARPMENT 589 (F,S) (Godolphin) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-11	J Reid	–
209	(9)	215022-	STRATEGIC CHOICE 182 (C,F) (M Arbib) P Cole 4-8-11	T Quinn	96
210	(5)	431221-	ZILZAL ZAMAAN 168 (D,F,S) (Mana Al Maktoum) M Stoute 4-8-11	W R Swinburn	[illegible]

BETTING: 7-2 Zilzal Zamaan, 4-1 Strategic Choice, 9-2 Broadway Flyer, 6-1 Right Win, 7-1 Linney Head, River North, 8-1 Escarpment, 10-1 Cotteir Chief, 14-1 Shambo, 25-1 Wayne County.

1994: RIGHT WIN 4-9-3 Pat Eddery (15-2) R Hannon 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

RIVER NORTH 3l 2nd of 11 to Monsun in group I *Konsenpoet Europa Preis at Cologne (1m 4f, good).* RIGHT WIN 7¾l 4th of 7 to Lando in group I race at San Siro (1m 4f, soft). *BROADWAY FLYER* 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Moonax in group I Teleconnections St Leger Stakes at Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good) on *penultimate start.* LINNEY HEAD *15l 10th of 25 to* Erhaab in group I Ever Ready Derby Stakes at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, good) with BROADWAY FLYER 23l 21st. *WAYNE COUNTY* 2¾l 5th of 17 to Wishing in handicap at Kempton (1m 4f, good to firm). COTTEIR CHIEF short-head 2nd of 11 to Fire Worshipper in conditions stakes at Doncaster (1m 4f, good to firm). ESCARPMENT 2½l 2nd of 6 to Innsbrown in listed race at Goodwood (1m, good to soft) September 1993. STRATEGIC CHOICE 1l 2nd of 9 to Persian Brave in group III Cacitol St *Simon Stakes over course and distance (heavy) with* SHAMBO (2lb worse off) 10¼l 5th. ZILZAL ZAMAAN beat COTTEIR CHIEF 6l in listed race at *Doncaster (1m 4f, soft).*
Selection. STRATEGIC CHOICE

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GREENHAM STAKES
(Group III: 3-Y-O colts and geldings: £21,840: 7f) (9 runners)

BBC1

301	(3)	110-	*ART OF WAR 205 (G,S) (Sir Philip Oppenheimer) R Charlton 9-0*	J Weaver	78
302	(5)	2221-	BAHRI 177 (G) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	64
303	(8)	6121-	BISHOP OF CASHEL 165 (D,S) (Cheveley Park Stud) J Fanshawe 9-0	D Harrison	78
304	(7)	111-	CELTIC SWING 182 (D,F,G,S) (P Savill) Lady Herries 9-0	K Darley	[illegible]
305	(6)	56	HENRY KOEHLER 7 (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	M Rimmer	67
306	(4)	31430-	KNIGHT COMMANDER 248 (F) (Highclere Racing Ltd) R Hannon 9-0	L Dettori	71
307	(9)	12360-	MOON KING 205 (C,S) (M Suhail) R Hannon 9-0	W R Swinburn	77
308	(2)	21-	PEACE ENVOY 178 (D,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0	Pat Eddery	77
309	(1)	1640-	RAMBRINO 248 (F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	72

BETTING: 2-5 Celtic Swing, 7-1 Peace Envoy, 10-1 Bishop Of Cashel, 12-1 Art Of War, 14-1 Bahri, Rambrino, *Moon King,* 25-1 *Knight Commander,* 66-1 *Henry Koehler*

1994: TURTLE ISLAND 9-0 J Reid (2-1 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

ART OF WAR 7½l 9th of 10 to Fard in group I Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket (6f, good to firm) with *MOON KING short-head last. Earlier completed double beat Loyalize ¾l in 6-runner listed race* at Kempton (6f, good to soft) on penultimate start. *BAHRI beat Royal Rebuke 5l in 10-runner conditions stakes at Nottingham (6f, good).* BISHOP OF CASHEL beat Bashaayeash neck in 7-runner group II Criterium de Maisons-Laffitte (7f, heavy). CELTIC SWING completed hat-trick beat Annus Mirabilis 12l in group I Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster (1m, good to soft). KNIGHT COMMANDER 2l 3rd *of 5 to Flowerdrum in listed race here (6f, good to* firm) on penultimate start. MOON KING 3l 3rd of 11 to Chilly Billy in group II Gimcrack Stakes at York (6f, good to firm) with RAMBRINO 8l 10th and KNIGHT COMMANDER 2l 11th. PEACE ENVOY beat Shayim 3½l in 13-runner maiden at Yarmouth (7f, good)
Selection: CELTIC SWING

3.30 LADBROKES SPRING CUP
(Handicap: £18,238: 1m 7yd) (20 runners)

BBC1

401	(11)	01/4011-	DANCE TURN 294 (D,F,G) (G Ward) R Armstrong 4-10-0	W Woods	89
402	(20)	00030-0	MELLOTTIE 28 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Fulton) Mrs M Reveley 10-9-8	K Darley	[illegible]
403	(17)	523040-	GEISWAY 270 (D,F,G) (P Green) N Walker 5-9-8	R Cochrane	89
404	(10)	14425-0	INDIAN FLY 28 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Harrington) R Hannon 4-9-7	Pat Eddery	92
405	(1)	006550-	PAY HOMAGE 196 (D,F,G) (Miss A Hill) I Balding 7-9-1	L Dettori	98
406	(9)	344300-	EMBANKMENT 175 (D,F,S) (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 5-9-1	R Hughes	94
407	(8)	*00124-1*	*ROVING MINSTREL 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J McMahon) B McMahon 4-9-1*	J Weaver	96
408	(16)	00/4140-	CZARNA 312 (S) (Ovidstown Investments Ltd) C Brittain 4-9-0	M Rimmer	89
409	(3)	21-0000	MASTER BEVELED 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 5-9-0	M Hills	98
410	(13)	*2100-61*	*SHEPPARD'S CROSS 15 (G,S) (Major R Kennard) P Walwyn 4-8-12*	B Thomson	88
411	(7)	20004-0	CHICKAWICKA 28 (S) (Merthyr Tydfil Cars Ltd) M Pipe 4-8-12	G Carter	96
412	(12)	30/1303-	BRAVE PATRIARCH 290 (S) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 4-8-10	W Carson	94
413	(14)	02100-1	SHARP PROSPECT 29 (D,F,S) (Future Prosp) R Akehurst 5-8-9	W R Swinburn	97
414	(15)	211300-	JAWAAL 191 (D,F) (T Fox) Lady Herries 5-8-7	J Reid	97
415	(2)	33402-5	ROYAL HILL 28 (G) (G Moore) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-6	D Harrison	98
416	(4)	010040-	STAR MANAGER 142 (D,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 5-8-5	T Quinn	93
417	(18)	121155	PERILOUS PLIGHT 37 (D,F,G) (J Jannaway) W Muir 4-8-2	S Sanders (3)	93
418	(19)	1000-54	KNOBBLEENEEZE 15 (V,C,D,F,G,S) (A Andrews) M Channon 5-8-2	B Doyle	97
419	(6)	033000-	HIGHLAND MAGIC 184 (G,S) (Miss N Carroll) M Fetherston-Godley 7-8-1	F Norton	90
420	(5)	*0510-36*	GADGE 23 (CD,S) (J R Leisure Ltd) D Morris 4-7-13	R Price	97

BETTING: 6-1 Sharp Prospect, 7-1 Indian Fly, 8-1 Royal Hill, 10-1 Brave Patriarch, Pay Homage, Sheppard's Cross, 12-1 Roving Minstrel, 14-1 Jawaal, 16-1 Chickawicka, Czarna, Dance Turn, Gadge, 20-1 others.

1994. MISSED FLIGHT 4-9-10 G Duffield (6-1) C Wall 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

DANCE TURN *beat Chickawicka (5lb better off)* ½l in 12-runner handicap at Sandown (1m, good to firm) with PAY HOMAGE (14lb better off) 12¼l 10th. GEISWAY *about 2¾l 4th of 16 to Cezanne in* handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. EMBANKMENT best effort last term 2l and neck 3rd of 11 to Aljazzaf in handicap at Ascot (1m 2f, good to firm). ROVING MINSTREL beat Moving Arrow short-head in 23-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with ROYAL HILL (7lb better off) 2¾l 5th, INDIAN FLY (6lb *better off) about 4l 7th. MELLOTTIE (6lb better off)* 1½l 9th, MASTER BEVELED (7lb better off) ¾l 10th and CHICKAWICKA (9lb better off) 10l 17th. SHEPPARD'S CROSS beat Shepherd Market 1½l in 13-runner handicap at Lingfield (7f, good) with *KNOBBLEENEEZE (5lb better off)* 1¾l and head 4th. BRAVE PATRIARCH 4¾l 4th of 8 to Frustration in handicap at Kempton (1m 2f, good). SHARP PROSPECT beat Sel Table 3l in 23-runner handicap at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) with GADGE *(8lb better off)* 1¼l 3rd and *SHEPPARD'S CROSS* (3lb better off) about 1¾l 6th. PERILOUS PLIGHT best recent effort beat Present Situation ¾l in 7-*runner conditions race at Lingfield (AW, 7f)*
Selection: ROVING MINSTREL

4.00 GET AWAY DAY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,695: 1m) (25 runners)

501	(1)	2	ABU SIMBEL 33 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	90
502	(3)	0-	ADMIRAL'S GUEST 175 (K Buchanan) G Harwood 9-0	A Clark	–
503	(2)	5-	ARCATURA 318 (A Waldie) C James 9-0	W Newnes	77
504	(6)		*CAP JULUCA (M Myers) R Charlton 9-0*	S Raymont	–
505	(25)	2-3	DANCES WITH HOOVES 16 (V Squeglia) D French Davis 9-0	R Cochrane	[illegible]
506	(7)	2-	DESERT HARVEST 206 (Cliveden Stud) R Charlton 9-0	J Weaver	96
507	(17)		*LYRIKOS (L Markopoulos) H Cecil 9-0*	W Ryan	–
508	(24)	0-	MERIT 177 (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	85
509	(23)		NIGHT FLARE (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) R Hannon 9-0	W Woods	–
510	(21)		*NORTHERN LAW (J Bradley) B Hills 9-0*	M Hills	–
511	(13)	0-	OFFICE HOURS 190 (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-0	T Ives	–
512	(19)		PHARLY REEF (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 9-0	K Darley	–
513	(5)		*PINZON (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0*	J Reid	–
514	(12)		PROUD IMAGE (L Fust) A Jarvis 9-0	R Hughes	–
515	(15)	00-	ROCK OYSTER 206 (R Harding) B Meehan 9-0	B Doyle	77
516	(11)		*SELMESTON (M Hawkes) A Stewart 9-0*	*M Humphries (5)*	–
517	(9)		SUNOMA VALLEY (All Saints Racing) J Eustace 9-0	B Thomson	–
518	(8)	00-	THOMAS CROWN 247 (P Green) N Walker 9-0	G Carter	85
519	(16)	0-	*WESTERN FAME 205 (S Khaled) J Dunlop 9-0*	W Carson	90
520	(16)		YOSIF (S Al Homeizi) R Hannon 9-0	Pat Eddery	–
521	(10)	2-	DAWSHA 213 (Mrs J Churston) S Dow 8-9	A Daly (7)	87
522	(22)		*EN VACANCES (Lambourn Valley Racing) A Foster 8-9*	M Rimmer	–
523	(14)		HIGH COMMOTION (Mrs R Waleford) D Elsworth 8-9	J Williams	–
524	(20)	05	MISS JEMMIMA 24 (Mrs J Hislop) Lord Huntingdon 8-9	D Harrison	80
525	(4)		*QUEENS THEATRE (Broughton Homes Ltd) B Hills 8-9*	M Fenton	–

BETTING: 5-1 Lyrikos, 7-1 Abu Simbel, 8-1 Northern Law, Desert Harvest, 10-1 Pinzon, Western Fame, Pharly Reef, 12-1 others.

1994: CLOSE CONFLICT 9-0 J Reid (8-11 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 15 ran

4.30 NETHERAVON MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O fillies: £3,623: 5f 34yd) (9 runners)

601	(2)		CD SUPER TARGETING (Circular Distributors Ltd) M Channon 8-3	W Carson	–
602	(8)	0	MONO LADY 28 (Monolithic Refractories Ltd) D Haydn Jones 8-2	D Harrison	–
603	(4)		*WINDSWEPT (Mrs H Sams) D French Davis 8-2*	*N Adams*	–
604	(9)		EVIDENCE IN CHIEF (R Tooth) P Cole 8-1	T Quinn	–
605	(3)	4	LUSSURIA 21 (M Lanfranchi) B Meehan 8-1	B Doyle	–
606	(5)		COMPENSATE (Ancells of Watford) M Haynes 8-0	S Sanders (3)	–
607	(7)		*LITTLE LUCKY (C Sparrowhawk) G Lewis 8-0*	A Whelan (5)	–
608	(6)		BEARNAISE (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 7-13	G Carter	–
609	(1)	2	KANDAVU 21 (Mrs H Corr) M McCormack 7-13	Stephen Davies	–

BETTING: 5-2 Kandavu, 11-4 Evidence In Chief, 5-1 Bearnaise, Cd Super 6-1 Lussuria, Targeting, 10-1 others.

1994: GOLDEN DANEHILL 8-3 W Carson (7-4 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 6 ran

5.00 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,777: 1m 4f 5yd) (8 runners)

1	(6)	38-1	SARASOTA STORM 23 (S) (B Warren) M Bell 9-7	M Fenton	85
2	(2)	0540-1	LORD JIM 23 (D,S) (Mrs S Thomas) Miss G Kelleway 9-6	R Cochrane	[illegible]
3	(7)	231-	DEANO'S BEENO 187 (F) (P Dean) M Johnston 9-3	J Reid	87
4	(4)	023-	*BETTER OFFER 188 (Mrs W Sallner) G Harwood 9-2*	A Clark	86
5	(5)	441-6	MISTINGUETT 7 (G) (B Nielsen) R Hannon 8-13	Pat Eddery	93
6	(3)	3060-3	MONARCH 11 (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-6	T Quinn	95
7	(1)	0-65106	COURBARIL 30 (S) (G Steinberg) S Dow 7-12	G Carter	93
8	(8)	00440-5	EURO FORUM 30 (V) (The Forum Ltd) G L Moore 7-9	W Carson	94

BETTING: 5-2 Mistinguett, 4-1 Lord Jim, 9-2 Sarasota Storm, 5-1 Deano's Beeno, 6-1 Better Offer, 7-1 Monarch, 14-1 Euro Forum, 16-1 Courbaril.

1994: MUWARIK 9-7 W Carson (3-1) J Dunlop 10 ran

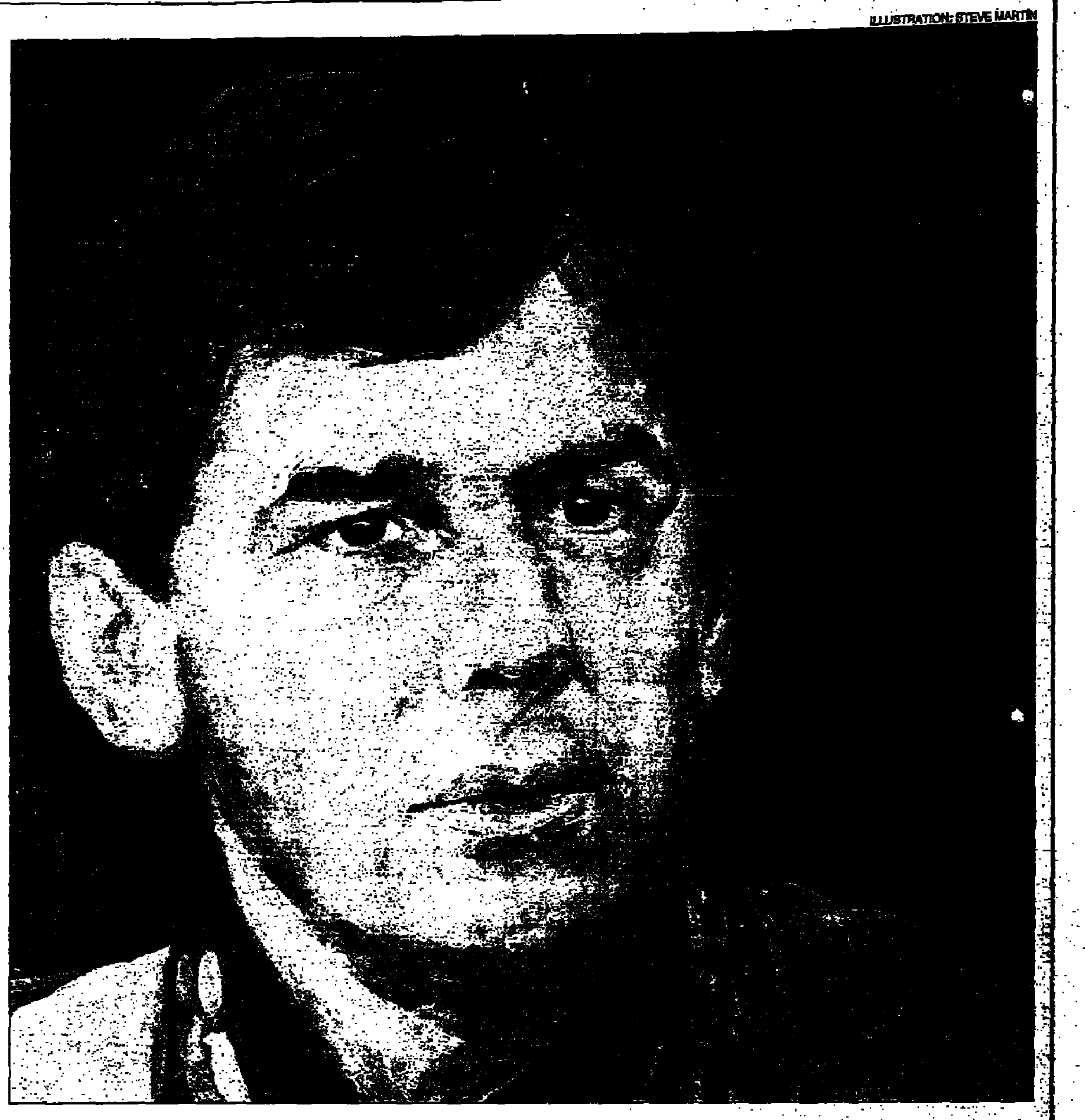
COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Chapple-Hyam	30	92	32.6	J Weaver	6	28	21.4
L Cumani	12	51	23.5	Pat Eddery	42	229	18.3
J Gosden	24	110	21.8	L Dettori	30	180	16.7
H Cecil	14	70	20.0	J Reid	34	205	16.6
Lady Herries	5	27	18.5	W Carson	29	198	14.6
G Lewis	10	59	16.9	D Harrison	10	76	13.2

Saturday portrait: Bryan Robson, by Peter Ball

Born leader ready to take management challenge head on

ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN



Over the years, Bryan Robson has competed for the great trophies on football's great stages — at Old Trafford and Anfield, at Wembley and Barcelona's Nou Camp Stadium. Today, he takes his Middlesbrough side to the rather more homely surroundings of Oakwell to play Barnsley in a match with promotion implications for both clubs.

Even with the building work transforming the old Barnsley ground, it is still a far cry from Robson's former surroundings. "How can I think about playing Barnsley at Oakwell now that I've been to the Olympic Stadium?" Kevin Moran, Robson's friend, business partner and companion on many a night's carousing, wondered as he contemplated retirement after Ireland's World Cup quarter-final defeat by Italy in Rome in 1990.

Moran, eager competitor that he was, found the answer, and stayed with Blackburn Rovers to play an important part in the club's rise. However, such a question would never enter Robson's head. His competitiveness is legendary, fuelling the heedless bravery that accounted for a chilling catalogue of injuries but which was one of his most telling attributes.

It was not the only one. For much of the 1980s, he was widely proclaimed as England's only world-class player. His importance to the national team was sometimes excessive — Bobby, his namesake, seemed to regard him as a talisman during his reign as manager, notably in 1986, when he was taken to the World Cup finals in Mexico and kept there even though his fitness was in doubt.

He won 90 caps for England, but he did not have a happy time in World Cups, when injuries often kept him on the sidelines. He was not a happy spectator, his zest for the fray leaving him chafing at his enforced idleness.

Until Alex Ferguson at last built the present team, Robson's importance to Manchester United was central. He was their driving force, leading by example, a scorer of thrilling goals when he burst forward, a fierce but, until his declining years, notably clean tackler, and a much underrated organiser and passer of the ball.

It was not his fault that, under Ron Atkinson, United had to be content with cups. Robson did his utmost to direct, lead and cajole them to the desperately desired championship. He captained them to their FA Cup victories in 1983 and 1985, and again, under Ferguson, in 1990, going on to lead the side to the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1991.

His initial relationship with Ferguson was edgy. Ferguson had been told that United was more of a drinking club than a football club, and, with his strong puritan streak, determined that sorting that out was to be an early priority.

One or two soon left, but, after initially wondering about Robson, Ferguson came to realise that the player's taste for socialising did not spill over and affect his considerable contributions on the field. If he played hard, nobody worked better, and the two formed a formidable partnership as manager and captain.

> 'His record means that few would bet against his team'

Formidable enough to bring United their first championship for 26 years. Robson, though, was injured for most of the season, making only six starting appearances.

Last season, he was captain emeritus, spending an informative year learning the managerial ropes from Ferguson, doing some coaching, discussing tactics and players. Ironically, he actually played more games than in the previous year, including some important contributions when the team began to wobble as the double loomed.

His display in the semi-final replay against Oldham was influential, as he calmed and organised the temperamental talent around him, capping his performance with a classic Robson goal. He exploded into the six-yard box to meet a corner, the ball going into the net off his groin as he leapt in, brooking no obstacle.

That performance raised his hopes that he would finish his United career at Wembley. Even at 37, with every domestic honour won, Ferguson's decision to leave him out of the team to play Chelsea was a bitter blow.

"I said to him: 'This isn't easy for me either'," Ferguson recalled. "'You're going to be a manager now, and you'll find you have to make these decisions'. And he handled it very well, but he didn't really accept it. His stubborn streak was there, he got that rebellious look that he has and he said: 'Yes, but I'd still pick me'."

He bore no grudges, openly admitting his debt to Ferguson when he moved to Middlesbrough as player-manager. United was put behind him, safely in his house in Cheshire, where he still lives, commuting from Manchester to Teesside on the ICI jet.

"I'm proud of the medals and trophies I keep at home, but it is now all about 'boro, and the first football picture I hang up on my office wall will be the one which celebrates this team winning silver this season," Robson said last autumn.

To nobody's surprise, they are well placed to do so now, going into the match this afternoon as favourites to go up automatically as Endsleigh League champions. There are some testing moments to come, but, in a tight race, Robson's record means that few will bet against his team.

He is a fast learner. Middlesbrough, in the first division, was a good place to start, with money available and a competitive squad in place. If there are questions about him, they perhaps centre on his activity in the transfer market, where his buys suggest a verdict of "not proven". However, he has brought to the job the same conviction that he had as a player. He still has that stubborn streak, and he has retained his honesty.

Always a good talker, the authority gained by his record ensured that he had a receptive dressing-room at club level — and maybe beyond, as a member of Terry Venables's England coaching staff.

Whether to carry on "picking me" is one of his main decisions as he nears the end of his first year in charge. Injuries have kept him out for half Middlesbrough's games. These days, he insists that, as a manager, he prefers watching to playing, and he has indicated that he would like to stop playing next season.

By then, he should be facing the new, and even more testing, challenge of competing with Blackburn and Manchester United and with Newcastle United, the big club up the road.

Robson said, when he started, that he was glad that direct comparison would be avoided in his first season. Promotion will make comparison with Kevin Keegan unavoidable, particularly as Sir John Hall said that he had originally wanted Robson, rather than Keegan, as the manager of Newcastle until persuaded by his son and Freddie Fletcher, a fellow director.

The two former England captains are superficially very different. Keegan, with his ready smile and easy charm, handles public relations and sponsors with an aplomb that Robson does not match, while the Middlesbrough manager is more of a force on the coaching ground. They share, though, a formidable will to win.

At Middlesbrough, Robson will not have the resources to match Newcastle and, at a club with a history of under-achievement, he would not be expected to. With a new 30,000-seat stadium to fill next season, however, Teesside, too, will demand success. How Robson copes with that will reveal his quality as a manager; as a man, he will meet it head on.

THE TIMES

Four weddings and a Caribbean honeymoon

To celebrate the retail release on video of the much-acclaimed *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *The Times* is giving four couples the chance to win an exotic honeymoon in the Caribbean, courtesy of the specialist tour operator Caribbean Connection. Each prize holiday features a different island destination; this week's is Tobago, twin of Trinidad.

Each winning couple will also receive an elegant Pronuptia bridal dress worth £600, plus suit hire for the groom; a pair of gold wedding rings together worth £300 from Mappin & Webb; and a case of Cordon Rouge champagne from the House of Mumm.

Two hundred runners-up will receive a copy of the video of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*; another 50 readers will receive copies of the film's soundtrack.

Destination in the sun

EACH of the four weeks of the competition will feature a different idyllic destination. **Tobago** is virtually at the southern tip of the Caribbean archipelago, and offers stunning beaches, colourful folklore and a passionate cricketing tradition.

Our winners will spend seven nights at Grafton Beach Resort (pictured), on a palm-fringed bay. The hotel offers complimentary ocean sports, a swimming pool, gym, squash courts and a whirlpool. The prize includes bed and breakfast accommodation, return flights and transfers.

Caribbean Connection offers the most extensive range of luxury hotels, villas and yachts in the region, along with more than 20 years of experience. The company has a department specialising in arrangements for couples wanting to get married abroad and many of their hotels offer exclusive wedding and honeymoon packages.

Four lucky brides will choose a dress worth £600 from wedding attire specialists Pronuptia Youngs. Their nationwide chain of stores offers exclusive collections by Jeff Banks and Laura Ashley plus their own label. Grooms will choose their wedding suits from Youngs Formal Wear.

Mappin & Webb, which is giving away our wedding rings, offers a wide range of traditional and contemporary jewellery. For details of your nearest Mappin & Webb branch, and a copy of their latest ring catalogue, phone 0171 409 3377.

● As a special offer to readers, Caribbean Connection will reduce by £200 per couple the cost of an island honeymoon taken before November 30, 1995. For further information and a brochure phone 01244 329556.

four Weddings and a funeral
15
BIGGEST

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win one of four dream honeymoons in the Caribbean collect any four of the eight tokens which are appearing in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Token seven appears below and your final token will appear in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. Send them with your name and address to: Four Weddings Contest, 5 Brittons Court, EC5S 6NG. The holiday must be taken by November 30, 1995, and is subject to availability.

The winners and their honeymoon destinations will be selected at random from all entries received by the closing date of May 6 1995.

Four Weddings and a Funeral attracted huge audiences in both Britain and America. The film has now been released in the UK by Polygram Video at the special price of £14.99, available until April 30.

Four Weddings and a funeral
Token Seven

CARIBBEAN CONNECTION
THE CARIBBEAN SPECIALISTS
MAPPIN & WEBB
CHAMPAGNE G.H. MUMM & C° REIMS FRANCE
PRONUPTIA YOUNGS

S Africans unleash power in the pairs

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN DURBAN

LORNA TRIGWELL and Jo Peacock, of South Africa, tightened their grip on the Atlantic Rim pairs bowls championship at Durban yesterday when they defeated Gill Fitzgerald and Norma Shaw, of England, their closest rivals, 30-13.

On a green that was saturated by heavy overnight rain, the match was more a test of strength than of skill. After England led 5-2, the South Africans simply reached the jack more often than their opponents.

Mary Price's England triple dented the hosts' unbeaten record, allowing Israel — the late replacements for Canada — to draw level with the South Africans at the top of the triples table.

Price, getting good support from Jean Baker and Norma Hazzledine, played a captain's part in a 21-18 victory. Earlier, the England triple had lost 26-8 to Wales, whose skip, Rita Jones, played with Vall Howell and Mary Davies in Florida two years ago. Joined this time by Ann Sutherland and Judith Watson, Jones has not given up hope of retaining the title. Wales are in third place, two points behind South Africa and Israel.

Janet Ackland and Betty Morgan, the Wales pair, completed a dazzling escape by turning a 20-8 deficit at 17 ends into a 23-20 victory four ends later.

Scotland continued to suffer. With Sarah Gourlay, their leading player, still nursing an injury to her bowling wrist, they lost to Guernsey in the triples and to Jersey in the triples and pairs.

RESULTS: Sixth round: Pairs: L Trigwell and J Peacock (SA) bt M Beeman and A Ainsworth (Nam) 40-6. B Cameron and P Nolan (Ire) bt S Jack and J Taylor (Sp) 22-18. G Fitzgerald and N Shaw (Eng) bt J Ackland and B Morgan (Wales) 17-13. B Forsyth and F Whyte (Scot) bt J Simon and B Le Cras (Guer) 24-13. C Soto and R Kusman (Isr) tied with A de Abolle and G de Mett (Arg) 19-19. H Stewart and A Barber (US) bt M Le Marquand and S Syvret (Jer) 21-17. Triples: South Africa (C Grondin) bt Namibia (L King) 28-9. Spain (P Fisher) bt Ireland (J Mulholland) 21-16. Wales (R Jones) bt England (M Price) 26-6. Guernsey (J Fagan) bt Scotland (J Maxwell) 15-10. Israel (M Hirschowitz) bt Argentina (S de Carranu) 24-6. Jersey (V Stead) bt United States (M Wood) 21-8

Break point soon passes as Germans boost net income

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

REMEMBER the death of tennis? Last year, people were writing obituaries for the game: it had peaked, and was now on the slippery slope to oblivion as a significant global sport. Tennis, apparently, was yesterday's game. So this week, in comes the biggest sponsorship in tennis history. It comes from Mercedes, and they are being coy about the actual amount involved.

However, this column can reveal that the sum in question is $50 million over four years, and the money comes "virtually in cash", as an insider told me. The money is not even just for the grand slam tournaments: it is for the so-called "big nine" tournaments on the tour run by the Association of Tennis Professionals. Memo to parents: if your boy wants to skive off rugby and play tennis, do not worry about him being a sissy. He is just smarter than you.

Rover's return?

New York: and the *New York Post* greets the world with one of the week's better sporting intros: "What this town needs, of course, is another sporting superstar with a cocaine problem." Who can they be talking about? Yes, we have come to this week's Diego story. Our boy is enjoying a lavish wooing at the hands of Roger Gorevic, a misguided person who owns something called New York Centaurs. This is a part of the on-again-off-again American Professional Soccer League, which is allegedly going to kick off on May 7.

The league is, at present, standing at an awesome strength of seven teams. Of course, Maradona will not actually be able to play on May 7, because he is under suspension after leaving the field stoned out of his head during the last World Cup, but Gorevic, a Manhattan jeweller, thinks that he could be available for the later rounds of the competition.

Diego, now 35, is once again between clubs. Said the *Post*: "He's got huge tax problems, paternity suits, a history of cocaine and alcohol abuse, a penchant for firing rifles at reporters — yes, Maradona would feel right at home in New York."

Preacher choice

Remember Stefan Effenberg? Kicked out of the German team at the last World Cup for making obscene gestures, he was sent home and, still under suspension, is clearly not forgiven. *At least*, not by football: but he has just been invited to preach in a Catholic church in Mönchengladbach.

I hope that's a blessing from Herr Effenberg
GED

Too much spirit

Could there be anything more frightening than a drunken female hockey team? Yes, actually: two drunken women's hockey teams. The ninetieth Easter hockey festival at Scarborough, was not an occasion for faint hearts and temperate natures. "The umpires at the tournament have had a gutful of drunken behaviour from some of the teams," Jim Patel, the chief umpire, said. "Some of the players had obviously consumed a large amount of alcohol before they started their matches. They are drunk on the field, and that isn't good, in terms of safety or for them as ambassadors of their club or sport." Of the 24 competing teams, there were *complaints about* five, two of them female sides. Roger Elliott, a festival committee member, said: "Although we don't want to make the festival a teetotal event, we are keen to maintain the traditionally high standard of hockey. There may be cause for certain teams not to be invited back."

Nice punchline

Temps perdu: the year is 1935, and Wilf Wooller, cricket and rugby player of legend, is sitting in the Dorothy Café in Cambridge with another rugby international, Arthur Rees. Enter the university heavyweight boxing champion. Rees takes up the tale: "He was out to impress his female companions. He recognised us and, for a laugh, he purposely bumped into our table, spilling our teapot and sending the crumpets and assorted cakes flying to the floor. He burst out laughing, but Wilf got up, looked him straight in the eye, and, with a quick short-arm jab to his chin, knocked him to the floor." The story is from *A Biography of Wilf Wooller*, published yesterday by Limlow Books. Oh, the boxer went on to become a bodyguard to Sir Oswald Mosley.

League leaders

What is the hottest issue in rugby league? No, you are wrong, nothing to do with the proposed Super League. The big question is, which was the longest goal kick in history? Was it Arthur Atkinson, of Castleford, with a 75-yard effort from his own 25 on October 26, 1929? Or was it Martin Hodgson, of mighty Swinton, with a kick assessed at 77 yards in April 1940? For 55 years, Hodgson's kick has ruled the record books. Yet, at this crucial moment in history, the Rugby Football League has remeasured, rethought and rewritten. Hodgson's kick is now officially 73 yards, so Atkinson's kick has re-emerged as the longest ever.

☐ *Somerset's new signings include a batsman called Peter Bowler and and bowler called Jeremy Batty.*

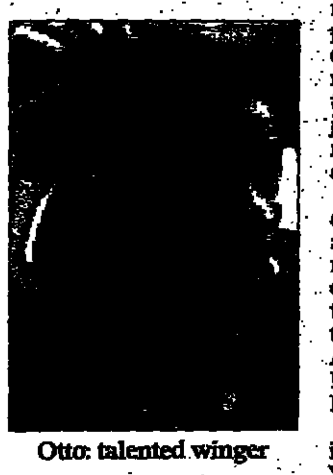
Supporters out to make the most of lesser final

By Peter Ball

LIKE the League Cup in its various guises, the Auto Windscreens Shield can attract some fairly sniffy comment from football's chattering classes. For the followers of the game's underclass, however, the final at Wembley is indeed their Cup Final.

Birmingham City and Carlisle United will attract at least 75,000 to the old stadium tomorrow, a bigger crowd than that which saw Bolton against Liverpool in this year's Coca-Cola Cup final, and the biggest in the competition since Burnley played Wolves in front of 80,840.

That meeting of two of the game's former giants had rather more resonance than tomorrow's match, but this one is a perfect reflection of the state of the game even down to both clubs possessing chairmen more famous than their players — the publisher David Sullivan at Birmingham, Michael Knighton, the erstwhile wouldbe owner of Manchester United, at Carlisle.



Otto: talented winger

Birmingham, though, are beginning to fulfill their potential. Down and almost out not so long ago, they have been rescued by a combination of Sullivan and their manager, the irrepressible Barry Fry. Now their ground is being converted into a stadium fit for the Premiership, and they are averaging nearly 20,000 for home games for this competition, such is the hunger for success in the city.

They are still the second city's second club, but not in the hearts of many Brummies, including, it would seem, the city council. They are holding a civic reception to mark the occasion, an honour not bestowed on Aston Villa, when they won the Coca-Cola Cup last year, or on Warwickshire for their dramatic cricketing success last summer.

The game comes in the middle of an important week for Birmingham. Last Wednesday's win at Plymouth took them back to the top of the second division. Next Wednesday they play second-placed Brentford. "If we win the Auto Windscreens Shield and don't get promotion the season will have been a disaster," Fry said.

Tomorrow they will have to do without José Domingues, their Portuguese international winger. Portugal have claimed him in international week for their under-21 game in Dublin. However Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, has released Liam Daish, the powerful centre-half, and David Barnett returns after missing the win over Plymouth.

Peter Shearer, their combative midfield player, is also expected to return and, with Louis Donowa back in contention after coming successfully through 45 minutes in the reserves, Birmingham are approaching full strength. Much could depend on the performance of the enigmatic, but talented, winger Ricky Otto, at just under £1 million a big-money purchase from Southend United, Fry's former club.

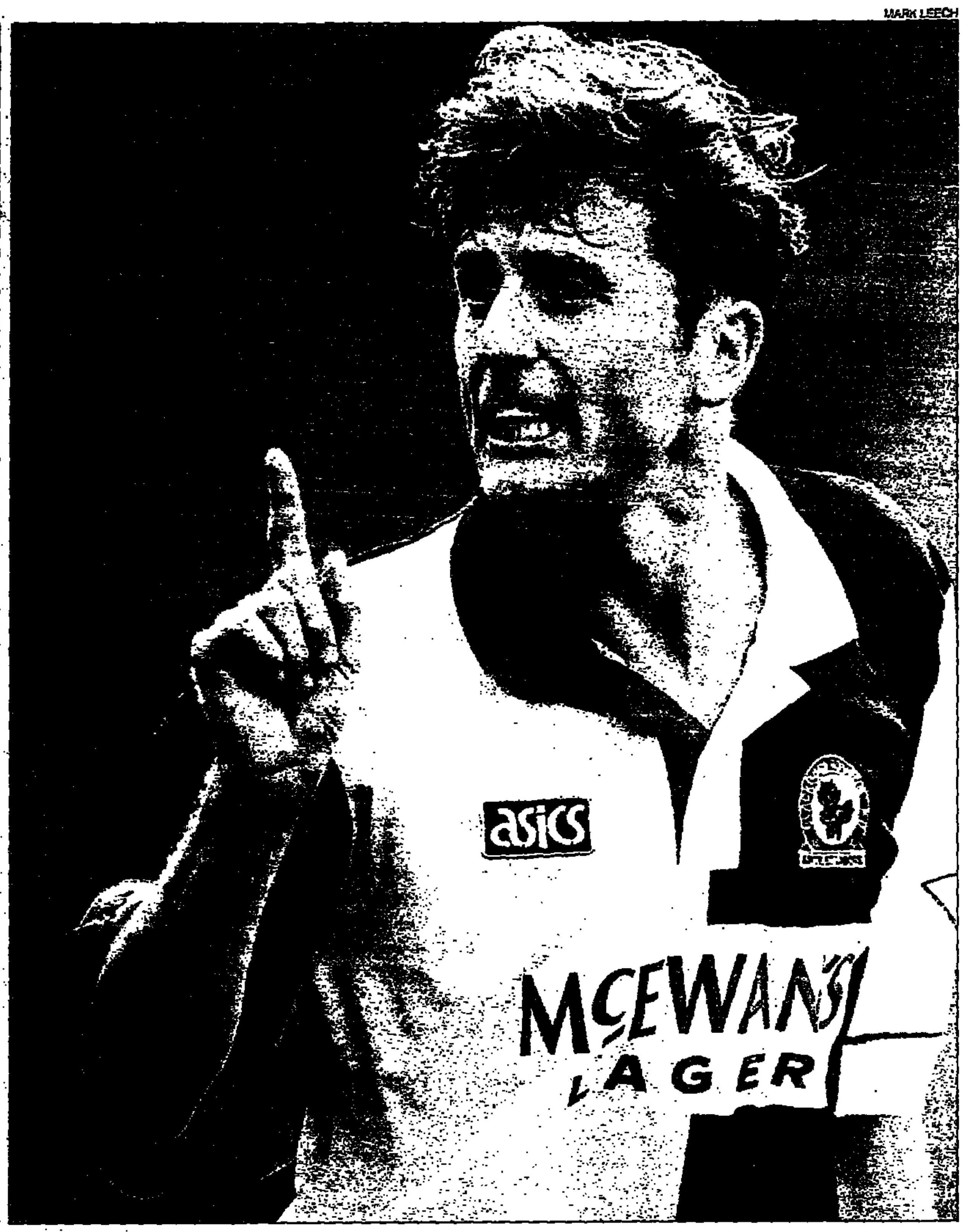
Carlisle will be the underdogs, and they have stumbled at the wrong moment, their runaway lead in the third division having been cut back to eight points. Tomorrow they have doubts about their American midfield player Paul Conway, and right back Darren Edmondson.

If Birmingham is enjoying its moment in the sun, South Yorkshire football has been unsuccessful for even longer than the county's cricket team. It will be the centre of attention today with Middlesbrough and Wolves the visitors for two matches with important implications for promotion to the Premiership.

Middlesbrough, who are favourites to claim the one automatic promotion spot, visit Barnsley, just one place outside the play-off places. Both sides have thrived under new player-managers, but both will be missing this afternoon. Bryan Robson is injured while Barnsley's Northern Irish international, Danny Wilson, is suspended.

Down the road at Bramall Lane, where Sheffield United are just in contention on the fringe of a play-off spot, Wolverhampton Wanderers are the visitors. Manager Graham Taylor believes they can still win the championship. They will need to win today.

MARK LEECH



Kevin Gallacher, who scored the second goal for Blackburn Rovers in their 2-1 FA Carling Premiership win over Crystal Palace on Thursday, faces another spell on the sidelines after breaking his leg an hour into his first appearance of the season. "I was on such a high and ended up on such a low," Gallacher said yesterday. He has a hairline fracture of the same leg which was broken in two places and kept him out of action for 15 months.

Hoddle offers a forlorn farewell

By Russell Kempson

IF IT really was the swansong of Glenn Hoddle, if it really was the final 29 minutes of a playing career that has thrilled and enthralled over two decades, it was a sombre occasion on which to bow out. Chelsea had battered themselves into submission, but not their opponents. At Stamford Bridge on Thursday, it was Real Zaragoza, of Spain, who earned the right to take on Arsenal in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup in Paris on May 10.

Hoddle emerged, in the aftermath of an emotion-charged and strength-sapping evening, a jaded, almost forlorn figure. The Chelsea player-manager had brought himself on, as a 61st-minute substitute, in a vain attempt to change the course of a semi-final second leg that had already lurched decisively in Zaragoza's favour.

They were 3-0 ahead from the first leg and 1-0 down on the night, but Santiago Aragon's vital 54th-minute equaliser meant that Chelsea had to score four more times to go through. Although Frank Sinclair and Mark Stein added to Paul Furlong's first-half goal in a raucous and rousing finale, the 3-1 victory was not enough. For Chelsea, and maybe Hoddle, it was the end of the road.

"I am glad I got on because that could have been my last game," Hoddle, 37, said, a weary shrug suggesting that an alert mind was now unable to compensate for an aching body. He had been troubled by an Achilles tendon problem for five weeks and played a part, under sufferance, because his squad had been reduced by injuries.

In his 21st season as a player, in a career in which he has also embroidered England, Tottenham Hotspur, AS Monaco and Swindon Town with his silky skills, Hoddle has started only two matches — against Liverpool and Manchester United — and appeared nine times as a substitute. Plotting Chelsea's survival in the FA Carling Premiership has been easier from the dug-out.

Yet the time has arrived when, by his own admission, Hoddle will no longer deliver pinpoint 50-yard passes and shimmy past markers as though they were statues. If not quite now, with Chelsea having four league games left and their casualty list still grim, then certainly at the end of the season.

Twice before, Hoddle had experienced the bitter taste of defeat in the semi-final of a European club competition. After the third, he spoke of a spirit and commitment from his side that had at least given him some satisfaction and consolation. Had Chelsea achieved the improbable, won and gone on to Paris, it would have perhaps provided Hoddle with a more fitting stage on which to bid his farewells.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Monarchs intent on sinking Admirals

AFTER two games in Germany, the London Monarchs play at White Hart Lane tomorrow against the Amsterdam Admirals, the only unbeaten team in the World League of American Football (Richard Wetherell writes). The Monarchs' home reflects the league's scaled-down expectations: London were based at Wembley in 1991 and 1992.

In their season opener, the Monarchs were defeated by Frankfurt 45-22. However, they looked a different proposition last week in Düsseldorf, where they beat the Rhein Fire 23-7. The Admirals' victories, both at home to dismally low crowds, have been by a total of six points. Their prime threat is Ralph Dawkins, who has gained 184 rushing yards and is dangerous on kick-offs, with 164 yards on returns. Both totals lead the league.

In Frankfurt tonight, the Scottish Claymores will seek their first win after two narrow defeats, 19-17 and 10-7. They have the leading receivers, Tim Barnett and Allen DeGraffenreid, but basic errors cost them at least the first game, if not the second as well.

Young opens in style

TABLE TENNIS: England, the holders, began their defence of the Commonwealth title with a 4-0 win against Sri Lanka and a 4-1 defeat of Northern Ireland in Singapore yesterday, with Terry Young, 16, winning three of his four matches. A victory over Australia today will leave England top of group A at the end of the first stage. England's women, seeded second, have only to beat India today to finish top of their group after wins by 4-1 over Mauritius and 4-2 over Canada.

Doohan sets pace again

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, the world 500cc champion, who is seeking his third straight win of the season, yesterday steered his Honda to the fastest lap time in the opening practice session for the Japanese Grand Prix in Suzuka tomorrow. The Australian, who won nine rounds last year and in Sydney and Malaysia this season, completed a lap of the 3.64-mile course in 2min 08.572sec. Shinichi Ito, of Japan, his team-mate, was 0.977sec behind.

Status preserved

ICE HOCKEY: Although Great Britain lost their final game in pool B of the world championships in Bratislava yesterday, going down 8-4 to Latvia, they seem likely to finish seventh in the pool — barring an upset in the final game between Slovakia and Romania — which will enable them to retain their place next season. Scott Morrison scored twice for the British team, who put in a strong finish after trailing 8-2.

Tanner stays in charge

CYCLING: John Tanner, the Sheffield professional, who has headed the British road race rankings since May last year, will retain his lead in the Premier Calendar series, whatever the result of the fifth round, the 103-mile Welwyn to Hatfield race, tomorrow. Tanner has a 97-point lead over Mark Walsham, his closest challenger, in the 15-race series, and there are only 40 points on offer this weekend. Fifteen professionals are among the full entry of 80 tomorrow.

Record beckons Towers

BASKETBALL: The London Towers will establish a peculiar record when they compete in the Budweiser championship finals in the Wembley Arena next weekend. From their home at Wembley Court to the Arena must be all of 250 yards, and is therefore the shortest trip a team will ever make to a leading sporting event at Wembley. The Towers secured their place in the finals with a 91-73 defeat of The Leopards on Thursday in the quarter-final play-offs.

Chance for Reading

HOCKEY: The five winners of the women's regional leagues meet in Bristol this weekend to decide which two teams will replace Pickwick and Blackburn in the second division (Alix Ramsay writes). One of the favourites in the round-robin tournament will be Reading, coached by Kate Parker and Denise Shorney. The club has been within striking distance of the national league since the former internationals joined them from Slough three seasons ago.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

(1) Barnsley v Middlesbrough
( ) Burnley v Portsmouth
( ) Charlton v Luton
(2) Notts County v Grimsby
(3) Oldham v Millwall
( ) * Sheffield Utd v Wolverhampton
( ) * Stoke v Port Vale
( ) Sunderland v Swindon
(4) Watford v Bristol City
( ) West Bromwich v Derby

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	43	22	11	10	63	37	77
Bolton	42	21	12	9	63	38	75
Tranmere	42	22	8	12	64	48	74
Wolves	42	21	9	12	72	56	72
Reading	43	20	10	13	52	41	70
Barnsley	42	19	10	13	58	46	67
Derby	43	18	11	14	64	47	65
Sheff Utd	43	16	16	11	67	49	64
Grimsby	43	16	13	14	59	53	61
Watford	42	16	13	13	47	44	61
Luton	43	15	13	15	58	58	58
Millwall	43	15	13	15	55	55	58
Oldham	42	15	11	16	55	58	56
Stoke	42	14	14	14	42	46	56
Charlton	42	15	10	17	55	61	55
Port Vale	43	14	11	18	55	62	53
Southend	43	15	8	20	47	71	53
West Brom	43	15	8	20	44	54	53
Portsmouth	43	13	12	18	48	61	51
Sunderland	43	11	16	16	37	42	49
Swindon	42	11	11	20	50	69	44
Burnley	43	11	11	21	46	70	44
Bristol City	43	11	11	21	40	59	44
Notts County	42	8	12	22	43	60	36

Does not include Tranmere Rovers v Southend United and Reading v Bolton Wanderers, played last night.

Second division

(5) Brentford v Cardiff
( ) Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient
(6) Crewe v Plymouth
(7) Hull v Cambridge Utd
(8) Peterborough v Blackpool
(9) Rotherham v Wrexham
(10) Shrewsbury v Huddersfield
(11) Stockport v Brighton
(12) Swansea v Bournemouth
(13) Wycombe v Chester
(14) York v Oxford Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	42	23	12	7	77	33	81
Brentford	42	24	9	9	76	33	81
Huddersfield	43	22	14	7	76	44	80
Bristol Rovers	43	20	15	8	66	36	75
Crewe	41	22	6	13	72	63	72
Wycombe	43	19	15	9	55	48	72
Oxford Utd	43	20	11	12	62	49	71
York	43	20	8	15	64	48	68
Hull	42	18	11	13	62	51	65
Swansea	42	17	14	11	54	42	65
Blackpool	43	17	10	16	62	67	61
Stockport	43	18	7	18	60	58	61
Wrexham	43	15	15	13	62	60	60
Bradford	43	16	11	16	57	62	59
Peterborough	43	13	16	14	51	67	55
Brighton	43	13	16	14	50	49	55
Rotherham	43	13	14	16	56	58	53
Shrewsbury	43	12	14	17	51	56	50
Cambridge Utd	43	10	14	19	50	67	44
Bournemouth	43	11	11	21	44	67	44
Plymouth	43	11	8	24	40	79	41
Cardiff	43	9	10	24	46	71	37
Leyton Orient	43	6	8	29	30	72	26
Chester	43	4	11	28	34	81	23

Third division

(15) Bury v Northampton
(16) Colchester v Lincoln
(—) Darlington v Rochdale
(17) Exeter v Barnet
(18) Gillingham v Doncaster
(19) Hartlepool v Hereford
(20) Mansfield v Fulham
(21) Preston v Torquay
(22) Scunthorpe v Scarborough
(23) Walsall v Wigan

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	39	25	10	4	63	27	85
Chesterfield	39	22	11	6	58	33	77
Walsall	38	21	10	7	69	38	73
Bury	38	20	10	8	63	35	70
Preston	39	18	10	11	54	38	64
Mansfield	39	18	9	12	78	53	63
Doncaster	39	16	10	13	53	36	58
Colchester	39	16	9	14	53	58	57
Scunthorpe	39	16	8	15	62	59	56
Fulham	39	14	13	12	53	59	55
Barnet	39	14	11	14	50	56	53
Lincoln	39	13	11	15	49	50	50
Wigan	39	13	10	16	50	55	49
Torquay	39	12	12	15	48	54	48
Rochdale	38	11	13	14	42	57	46
Hereford	39	11	12	16	42	56	45
Northampton	39	8	14	17	40	59	38
Darlington	39	10	8	21	38	54	38
Gillingham	39	9	10	20	41	59	37
Hartlepool	39	9	10	20	36	64	37
Exeter	39	8	10	21	34	65	34
Scarborough	38	8	9	21	46	63	33

Vauxhall Conference

(24) Bromsgrove v Halifax
(25) Dagenham and Red v Bath
(26) Dover v Altrincham
(27) Farnborough v Woking
(28) Gateshead v Stevenage
(29) Kidderminster v Stafford
(30) Runcorn v Northwich
(31) Stalybridge v Merthyr
(32) Welling v Kettering
(33) Yeovil v Telford

UniBond League

Premier division

(34) Barrow v Whitley Bay
(35) Bishop Auckland v Accrington Stanley
(36) Boston v Morecambe
(37) Buxton v Winsford
(38) Colwyn Bay v Frickley
(—) Droylsden v Emley
(—) Gainsborough v Spennymoor
(—) Guiseley v Horwich
(—) Hyde v Matlock
(—) Knowsley v Witton

Diadora League

Premier division

(39) Aylesbury v Yeading
(40) Bromley v Sutton United
(41) Carshalton v Marlow
(—) Enfield v Bishop's Stortford
(42) Harrow v Slough
(43) Hayes v Dulwich
(—) Hitchin v Walton and Hersham
(—) Kingstonian v Grays
(—) Molesey v Chesham
(—) Purfleet v Hendon
(—) Wokingham v St Albans

Bell's Scottish League

First division

(44) Airdrie v St Mirren
(45) Clydebank v Hamilton
(46) Dundee v Raith
(47) Dunfermline v Ayr
(48) Stranraer v St Johnstone

Second division

(49) Berwick v Stirling
(50) Brechin v Clyde
(51) East Fife v Meadowbank
(52) Greenock Morton v Queen of South
(53) Stenhousemuir v Dumbarton

Third division

(54) Albion v Ross County
(55) Alloa v Queen's Park
(56) Caledonian T v Montrose
(57) East Stirling v Arbroath
(58) Forfar v Cowdenbeath

Beazer Homes League

Premier division

(—) Burton v Cheltenham
(—) Cambridge City v Dorchester
(—) Chelmsford v Halesowen
(—) Gloucester v Hednesford
(—) Gravesend and Northfl v Leek
(—) Hastings v Gresley
(—) Solihull v Rushden and Diamonds
(—) Trowbridge v Sudbury
(—) VS Rugby v Sittingbourne
(—) Worcester v Atherstone

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Baldock v Bashley; Bury Town v Fareham; Clevedon v Braintree; Fisher '93 v Burnham; Poole v Margate; Salisbury v Erith and Belvedere; Tonbridge AFC v Newport IoW; Waterlooville v Ashford; Wealdstone v Weston-super-Mare, Weymouth v Yate; Witney v Havant. Midland division: Armitage v Bedworth; Bilston v Ilkeston; Dudley Town v Moor Green, Forest Green v Hinckley Town; Grantham v Buckingham Town; Leicester United v Tamworth; Nuneaton v Bridgnorth; Newport AFC v Rothwell; RC Warwick v Evesham, Redditch v Stourbridge; Sutton Coldfield v King's Lynn

DIADORA LEAGUE: First division: Barking v Maidenhead; Basingstoke v Bognor Regis; Berkhamsted v Leyton; Dorking v Aldershot Town; Newbury v Billericay. Ruislip Manor v Heybridge Swifts; Staines v Wembley; Tooting and Mitcham v Chertsey; Uxbridge v Boreham Wood, Worthing v Whyteleafe. Second division: Banstead v Oxford City; Bracknell v Ware, Chalfont St Peter v Metropolitan Police: Cheshunt v Egham; Croydon v Hemel Hempstead, Edgware v Barton; Hampton v Malden Vale: Thame v Aveley; Tilbury v Saffron Walden; Witham v Leatherhead. Third division: Clapton v Harlow, Cove v Bedford Town; East Thurrock v Kingsbury; Feltham and Hounslow v Leighton, Flackwell Heath v Camberley; Harefield v Collier Row; Hertford v Canvey Island; Hornchurch v Southall, Horsham v Epsom and Ewell; Tring v Northwood.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Alfreton v Fleetwood; Ashton United v Curzon Ashton; Atherton LR v Worksop; Bamber Bridge v Goole, Blyth Spartans v Workington; Congleton v Harrogate Town; Eastwood Town v Caernarfon; Farsley Celtic v Warrington, Great Harwood v Netherfield; Lancaster v Mossley; Radcliffe v Gretna.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Barry v Conwy, Caersws v Holywell; Connah's Quay v Aberystwyth, Cwmbran v Llansantffraid, Ebbw Vale v Rhyl, Maesteg Park v Flint Town; Mold v Afan Lido (2.30): Newtown v Ton Pentre (2.30): Porthmadog v Llanelli.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Brimsdown v Walthamstow Pennant, Brook House v Willesden; Cockfosters v Corinthian Casuals; Croydon v St Margaretsbury; Hillingdon v Hanwell, Waltham Abbey v Beaconsfield Sycob

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Brache Sparta; Harefield v Arlesey Town; Langford v Potters Bar; Letchworth Garden City v Royston: Shillington v Harpenden; Welwyn Garden City v Milton Keynes.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Calne; Bristol Manor Farm v Torrington; Bridport v Crediton. Chippenham v Saltash; Elmore v Frome; Mangotsfield v Barnstaple; Odd Down v Liskeard, Tiverton v Westbury.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Great Yarmouth v Newmarket; Halstead v Wroxham; Harwich and Parkeston v Fakenham; Histon v Sudbury; March v Felixstowe: Soham v Lowestoft; Walton v Hadleigh Utd, Wisbech v Tiptree; Woodbridge v Chatteris.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Petersfield; Aerostructures v Ryde Sports: Andover v Bemerton Heath, BAT v Gosport: Christchurch v Brockenhurst; Downton v Totton: East Cowes v Fleet, Horndean v Cowes Sports: Portsmouth v Bournemouth: Swanage and Herston v Eastleigh: Thatcham v Wimborne.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Burgess Hill v Whitehawk; Crowborough v Shoreham; Littlehampton v Langney Sports: Newhaven v Peacehaven/Telscombe, Pagham v Oakwood, Portfield v East Grinstead; Ringmer v Arundel; Southwick v Three Bridges, Wick v Stamco

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Tunbridge Wells: Canterbury v Thamesmead, Cray v Furness. Deal v Greenwich: Kent Police v Corinthian, Sheppey v Slade Green.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Banbury, Almondsbury v Bicester; Cinderford v Kintbury: Fairford v Cirencester. Highworth v Swindon Supermarine. Pegasus Juniors v Brackley, Tuffley v Shortwood

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Raunds, Cogenhoe v Wootton, Desborough v Newport Pagnell, Northampton Spencer v Holbeach: Spalding v Stotfold: Wellingborough v Potton.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Meir KA, Ansells v Bloxwich, Chelmsley v Upton: Coleshill v Shirley: Highgate v Wellesbourne; Kings Heath v Northfield, Olton Royale v Knowle. Sherwood Celtic v Handrahan Timbers. West Midland Fire Service v Studley BKL.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: Blakenall v Stourport, Cradley v Hill Top: Ettingshall v Darlaston FC, Gornal v Walsall Wood F C; Malvern v Lye; Meriders v Bloxwich: Stafford F C. v Wednesfield; Tividale F C v Bilston. Westfields v Pelsall Villa.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold v Ossett Town; Ashfield v Hallam, Denaby v Glasshoughton Wel ; Hucknall v Thackley: Lincoln United v Armthorpe Welfare; North Ferriby v Liversedge. Ossett Albion v Stocksbridge PS: Pickering v Brigg, Pontefract Collieries v Maltby MW; Sheffield v Belper Town.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Bradford Park Avenue v Skelmersdale, Chadderton v Blackpool Rovers: Darwen v Burscough: Bootle v Kidsgrove. Eastwood H v Clitheroe: Holker Old Boys v Trafford: Maine Road v St. Helens: Nantwich v Bacup: Newcastle Town v Glossop North End. Prescot v Penrith, Rossendale v Salford.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v West Auckland, Consett v Durham, Guisborough v Chester-le-Street, Northallerton v Shildon. Peterlee v Hebburn: RTM Newcastle v Murton, Tow Law v Whitby

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Millwall; Brighton v Oxford Utd (2.0), Ipswich Town v Tottenham Hotspur; Luton Town v West Ham United (at Kenilworth Road, 2.0): Southampton v Chelsea (at Marchwood FC, 2.0)

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Leeds Utd (at Southport FC, 2.0), Manchester Utd v Everton (at Old Trafford, 2.0).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ballymena v Newry; Bangor v Ballyclare, Crusaders v Glentoran; Distillery v Coleraine, Glenavon v Cliftonville; Larne v Ards; Linfield v Portadown, Omagh v Carrick.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Lancing v Etonians, Malvernians v Carthusians; Reptonians v Chigwellians. First division: Bradfieldians v Wykehamists. Foresters v Haileyburians; Salopians v Ardinians: Westminster v Harrovians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier League: Cardinal Manning v Old Aloysians; Chertsey v Old Meadonians; Old Tenisonians v Clapham. First division: Old Tenisonians v Phoenix. Old Kingsburians v Old Wokingians, Shene v Old Isleworthians; Old Edmontonians v Old Salvatorians

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Winchmore Hill v South Bank, National Westminster Bank v Norsemen, East Barnet OG v Civil Service, Old Actonians v Old Esthameians. West Wickham v Old Lyonians, Alexandra Park v Carshalton, Broomfield v Old Parkonians. Lensbury v Old Westminster Citizens; Old Parmiterians v Polytechnic, Cuaco v Brentham, Old Salesians v Bank Of England: Merton v Reigate Priory, Old Lyonians v Barclays Bank.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior first division: St Mary's College v Ulysses. Southgate Count v Nottsborough, Wandsworth Borough v Old Grammarians, Witan v Old Owens.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Charlton Athletic v Southend Utd. Chelsea v Gillingham. Millwall v Fulham, Portsmouth v Ipswich Town; Queens Park Rangers v Leyton Orient, West Ham Utd v Norwich City. Second division: Bournemouth v Wimbledon; Brighton v Southampton. Crystal Palace v Bristol Rovers, Swindon Town v Bristol City, Tottenham Hotspur v Colchester Utd

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

International match

Scotland v Romania
(at Murrayfield)

CIS county championship

Final

Northumberland v Warwickshire
(at Twickenham)

CIS under-21 county championship

Final

Buckinghamshire v Yorkshire
(at Twickenham, 12.30)

Courage Clubs Championship

First division

Bristol v West Hartlepool
Harlequins v Bath
Northampton v Wasps
Orrell v Gloucester
Sale v Leicester

Second division

Moseley v Fylde
Nottingham v London Irish
Saracens v Coventry
Wakefield v Waterloo

Swalec Cup

Semi-finals

Cardiff v Swansea
(at Llanelli, 3.15)
Pontypridd v Llanelli
(at Cardiff, 1.30)

Heineken League

First division

Newport v Dunvant (2.30)

Second division

Bonymaen v South Wales Police (2.30)
Maesteg v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Tenby Utd v Llanharan (2.30)

Third division: Caerphilly v Tredegar; *Tondu v Mountain Ash*

Club matches

Abertillery v Penarth (2.30)
Aspatria v Middlesbrough
Berry Hill v Walsall
Brixham v Exeter
Broughton Park v Manchester
Camborne v Launceston
Cross Keys v Bridgend (2.30)
Glamorgan Wndrs v Treorchy (2.30)
High Wycombe v Maidstone
Kendal v Bradford and Bingley
Liverpool St Helens v Stourbridge
Llandovery v Hereford (2.30)
Metropolitan Police v Askeans
Newbridge v *London Welsh (2.30)*
Newcastle Emlyn v Narberth (2.30)
Otley v Preston Grasshoppers
Plymouth v Weston-super-Mare
Richmond v Newport
Rosslyn Park v Reading
Stoke v Birkenhead Park
Tabard v Leighton Buzzard
Wharfedale v Leeds

Schools international

Wales Under-16 v England Under-16
(at Pontypridd)

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam v Leigh M W (2.30). Egremont v Saddleworth (2.30); Wigan St Patrick's v Dudley Hill (2.30)

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Semi-finals: Woolston v Hensingham (2.0). West Hull v Thornhill (2.0)

HOCKEY

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS (at Olton): Blueharts v Bath Buccaneers (10.0). Crostyx v Norton (12.0); High Wycombe v *City Of Portsmouth (2.0); Whitchurch v* Olton and West Warwickshire (4.0).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Combined Services v London University *(Sandhurst).*

FESTIVAL: Thanet (Ramsgate)

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS *(Clifton College) Old Loughtonians* v Reading (10.0). Aldridge v Poynton (12.0). Redland v Old Loughtonians (2.0): Reading *v Poynton (4.0)*

SOUTH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Play-offs (Basingstoke)

CLUB MATCHES: Crimson R v Rotherwick, Kettering v Sherwood, Newport v Bracknell. Pickwick v Cardiff Ath, Pontypridd v Risca, Weston v St Fagans.

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: London and Southern Counties Indoor Shield: Final: Barking v Whiteknights (Watford 10.0). Fours final: *Tye Green v Victory (Watford 10.0).*

CYCLING: Oxonian CC 10 miles (Crowmarsh Gifford, 5.0): Icknield RC 25 *miles (Tempsford, 4.0)*

MOTOR RALLYING: London to Mexico Rally (Portsmouth)

SNOOKER: *Embassy world championship* (Crucible Theatre, Sheffield).

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Bradford v Ipswich, Coventry v Hull; Cradley Heath v Edinburgh, King's Lynn v Wolverhampton, Swindon v Reading. *Speedway Star Knockout Cup:* First round, second leg: Eastbourne v Arena Essex.

SWIMMING: Great Britain European *championship trials (Sheffield)*

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

Auto Windscreens Shield

Final

* Birmingham v Carlisle
(at Wembley)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: *Rushden and Diamonds v Hastings* (2.0). Southern division: Braintree v Witney.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Llansantffraid v Afan Lido

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport v Liskeard.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Athlone v Derry; Cork v Monaghan; Dundalk v Galway; Shamrock v Bohemians, Shelbourne v St. Patrick's *Athletic; Sligo v Cobh Ramblers.*

RUGBY UNION

MIDDLESEX CUP: Final: Ruislip v Grasshoppers.

CRICKET

11.0, 55 overs

Benson and Hedges Cup

DERBY: Derbyshire v Northamptonshire
STOCKTON: Durham v Leicestershire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Glamorgan
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v *Combined Universities*
LORD'S: Middlesex v Hampshire
LEEK: Minor Counties v Lancashire
TRENT BRIDGE: *Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire*
TAUNTON: Somerset v Sussex
THE OVAL: Surrey v Ireland
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Scotland

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of three): King's College, Taunton: Somerset v Sussex.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World Bowl Trophy: London Monarchs v Amsterdam Admirals (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Bitter championship

First division

Bradford v Castleford
Doncaster v Workington
Featherstone v Oldham (3.30)
Salford v Widnes
Sheffield v Halifax (3.15)
Wakefield v Leeds (3.30)
Wigan v Hull

Second division

Batley v Hunslet (3.15)
Bramley v Rochdale
Carlisle v Ryedale York
Highfield v Keighley
(at Rochdale)
Huddersfield v Dewsbury (3.30)
Leigh v Hull K R
Swinton v Barrow
Whitehaven v London Broncos

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Chorley v Heworth (2.30)

HOCKEY

INTER-LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS (at Olton). Norton v City of Portsmouth (10.0): *Whitchurch v Blueharts (12.0).* High Wycombe v Crostyx (2.0). Bath Buccaneers v Olton and West Warwickshire (4.0).

FESTIVAL: Thanet (Ramsgate).

WOMENS NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS *(Clifton College).* Aldridge v Redland (10.0). Poynton v Old Loughtonians (12.0) Reading v Aldridge (2.0)

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: *Welwyn to Hatfield 106 miles* grand prix, premier calendar (Gosling Stadium 10.0).

LACROSSE: North of England League: First division: Sale v *Cheadle;* Mellor v *Timperley* Ashton v Sheffield Steelers: Old Waconians v Heaton Mersey.

SWIMMING: Great Britain European *championship trials (Sheffield)*

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BOXING 38

HAS FOREMAN TAKEN
ON MORE THAN
HE BARGAINED FOR?

RUGBY UNION 39

HASTINGS PREPARES
TO BID FAREWELL
TO MURRAYFIELD

SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

Seaman enjoys the final word in test of character

Rob Hughes salutes Arsenal as Italy marvels at the resolve of the holders of the Cup Winners' Cup

THE quality of England's performance — correction, of Arsenal's habit — in reaching *the Cup Winners' Cup Final* for a second successive spring, is the talk of Italy. David Seaman, the most phlegmatic of Yorkshiremen, may not quite have his ears ringing, but he was the subject of a 7am *telephone conversation* between Gianni Agnelli, the chairman of Fiat and the benefactor of Juventus, speaking to Luca di Montezemolo, the president of Ferrari.

"It was the goalkeeper 'ingelsi'," Montezemolo said admiringly. "Phenomenal! We were in complete agreement that Seaman was super-heroic while Zenga was, *let us say*, typical Italian. Those three penalty saves from five kicks epitomised the grand determination of English football."

Indeed they did. Seaman *had thrown himself right, left* and amazingly upwards into the air, to prevent shots from three of the most talented players on the continent. He is a man who has suffered for months, silently suffered, *from a broken rib. His reach*, his nerve and his calmness were examples of the mental toughness by which this Arsenal team has for two seasons outlasted teams who arguably outplayed them.

Afterwards, he seemed happy to be carried the length of the field on the shoulders of the team whose effort, he *insists, had carried them* through the trauma of twice apparently being out of the tie, through the fatigue barrier of extra time and through the *torture of the penalty decider.*

Asked *what was in his mind* when he stood on the goalline faced by world quality snipers, Seaman, clad from shoulder to knees in a Union Jack, responded: "I thought I'd better get down, sharpish."

That is Rotherham language for "it is time to be a hero". There were others, for example Tony Adams, such a leader, such an obvious rouser of the team around him, a man much-maligned in his career. His own penalty kick, uncompromisingly driven past Zenga as if the goalkeeper were a target, exemplified the *resolution in a team built by* George Graham.

That manager, justifiably, has gone, his deputy, Stewart Houston, has yet to learn whether retaining the Cup *Winners' Cup will spare* him the cruelty of dismissal at the season's end.

Houston, undoubtedly, has won the respect and affection of the players, even those like Ian Wright who appeared at first to be at odds with him. Wright, singularly focused on Thursday, had been the victim of one of the most blatant, crude attempts by a fellow professional, Riccardo Ferri, to put him out of the game by hacking at his ankle. For a time, pain seared through him, but he had asked for one chance, *he* scored from it on the hour and, with his ninth goal in eight games, created a European record of scoring home and away in every round from the first round to the final.

There is quickness and intuitiveness in Wright, but also something of the lion heart with which Italians still revere the racing driver, Nigel Mansell.

Finding a new, astonishingly brave and athletic partner in John Hartson, Wright seems reborn and nobody who understands the game would bet against him completing that record by scoring against Real Zaragoza in the final in Paris on May 10.

Zaragoza have arguably more players of finer touch and invention than Arsenal. So did Sampdoria, so last season did Torino and Parma. Where they all failed was to match the collective will, the belief which has now carried Arsenal through two solid years of European competition amongst the hierarchy. When will we stop harping on about their stolid lack of invention in midfield and praise to the skies the attitude that much of the rest of the continent would *happily* import if that were possible?

Zaragoza, given the way they so nearly folded against Chelsea, would need personality transplants to live under the fire of these Gunners — and yet, not wishing to be carried away, we should resist the kind of talk which came in apparent good faith from Adams in Genoa.

He said that the yellow card for Steve Bould was "tragic". It was a card for violence of the tongue, for disrespectful abuse to the referee, and rather than tragic, one would say it was a shame that such a card, three minutes from time, will rule Bould out of the final.

We all have to work and play within accepted rules, it is ludicrous for Bould to assert, that at the moment he lost his temper, he thought that the game was up for Arsenal. And, remembering the tendency to accuse foreigners, rather than Britain, of unfair inclination, consider this:

Some 50 Arsenal fans arrived in Genoa to find that their tickets supplied in London were forged. They went to the Luigi Ferraris stadium in hope and near despair. And the Sampdoria club, which has always *cherished* its relationships with Britain, found the capacity and the goodwill to supply each distraught Arsenal fan with a ticket at the face value of £11.00 a head. Friendship through sport? A truly good night for Arsenal in Italy.

Wembley final, page 43

Hick steps gingerly on road to full fitness

By Alan Lee, cricket correspondent

THREE *months* after *flying* home from Australia with his immediate cricket future darkly clouded by a back injury, Graeme Hick resumes his career tomorrow. He is worryingly thin and sounds *only cautiously confident* about his recovery, but he is playing again and that, to Hick, is what matters most.

"When I was lying on my back at home not really sure how seriously I was hurt, a lot went through my head," Hick said yesterday. "I certainly wished I had done better with my O-levels. I had been told *that this would not put a stop* to my career, but I didn't want to end up not playing at all this year. It was an anxious time."

Under medical instructions, Hick spent almost three weeks lying prostrate and fretful, having been sent home from the England tour before the win in the fourth Test in Adelaide. He had lived with *pain in his lower back for* more than a year, but this was different. "When I tried to bend down and couldn't get further than my knees. I thought it was time to stop," he said.

For a man who takes as much pride in his physical fitness as any cricketer I have known, and whose muscular strength *was such that he* earned the nickname "Arnie", after Schwarzenegger, this immobilising condition was difficult to accept. "It was a shock to my system at first," he said, "but my Dad always *had a lot of back trouble* and I am assured this is a common, wear-and-tear injury.

"The specialist told me that the disc had been *misplaced* for a while, that it had been applying pressure to the joints and that the cartilage was in bad shape. He thought I would get away without an operation and I am hopeful I will never need one.

"A series of injections, and a *lot of rest, have got me back to* a level of fitness at which I will not be letting myself down, but I always like to feel strong, so I have work still to do."

To look at Hick, in the sunshine of Worcestershire's New Road ground yesterday, was to look upon a wasted body. "I thought I would get fat through being inactive, but *weight has fallen off me,*" he explained. "I don't know how much I have lost, but I have begun to work with weights in the gym to strengthen my legs, which are still pretty weak, and to put back a few pounds."

In cricket terms, Hick is not yet 100 per cent. He withdrew from Worcestershire's practice match against Somerset on *Wednesday, preferring an experimental* net session, and, although he will play in the Benson and Hedges Cup tie against Scotland tomorrow, he will not bowl.

"Our physio advises against it," he said. "I don't know when I will start bowling again, but much depends on how I get through the early *games. I intend to be careful at* first, but, if I feel all right and the confidence returns, I will try a few more things. I might even get a game of golf, which is one thing I have not been allowed to do recently."

It is four years since Hick made his Test debut amid loud fanfares against the same West Indian opposition that *tours England this summer. It* has not been an entirely fulfilling period, as he admits. "I have learned a lot and I have put up with a lot," he said, "but I am now better equipped to cope."

His last Test innings was cut short in controversial fashion by Michael Atherton, his own captain, who declared in Sydney with Hick 98 not out. *His instinctive reaction mixed* bewilderment with anger, but time has healed any resentment. "I just hope I get the chance to play this summer," he mused. "I need a few runs first."

Hick makes his return on a Worcester ground which has been under water for more than two months of the winter, killing a lot of the new grass *on the square. This ought not* to prevent Worcestershire from making a winning start as they seek to emulate the feat of reaching both one-day finals and winning the NatWest Trophy in 1994.

This opening round of Benson and Hedges group games would surely have sat more happily on a Saturday, if, indeed, one can see the value *in playing it at all.* The features include Warwickshire, the holders, facing a tough away game against Nottinghamshire and the return of Robin Smith, after shoulder surgery, for Hampshire against Middlesex at Lord's, as well as *first appearances* for various overseas players, including Hansie Cronje, for Leicestershire, and *Daryll* Cullinan, for Derbyshire.

Hick, after a long rest and a course of injections to cure his back trouble, hopes that the wind is set fair for a successful 1995 season. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Fast men rout Australia

From a Correspondent in Port of Spain, Trinidad

WHATEVER agonising West Indies *might have* gone through about the composition of their side for the crucial third cricket Test against Australia at Queen's Park Oval, Trinidad must have been dispelled yesterday by the sight of *a pitch more heavily* grassed than any seen in international cricket in recent years.

Reliance on a four-man pace attack, to *the exclusion of the* Trinidadian specialist spin bowler Rajindra Dhanraj, was further vindicated when the home side won the toss and without hesitation asked the Australians to take first *innings in sultry* conditions, with sufficient residual surface moisture from the previous day's downpour to make batting by far the less preferable option. And so it proved, for midway through the after*noon the Australians found* themselves in terrible distress at 98 for seven.

The comparative indistinguishableness of the playing strip from the remainder of the square caused one Austra*lian on arrival* at the ground to inquire as to the whereabouts of the pitch.

Walsh struck the first blow in his first over when Slater, uncertain whether to play or *not* at a ball *short of a length* and wide enough of the off stump to ignore, failed to take his bat away in time to avoid *giving a regulation catch to* Murray behind the stumps.

In the next over, Taylor pushed Ambrose off his hip into the hands of Adams at short square leg. In the following over Walsh went straight *through Boon with* successive balls before he had scored. Added to the awkwardness of the bounce there was more than occasional movement off the seam to be negotiated, and in the tenth over Mark Waugh touched a leg cutter for Murray to make his second catch.

With Australia now 14 for three, West Indies moved in *for the kill, but a flurry of* strokes through the close field to the untenanted boundaries brought some relief, as did the *loss of the second half of the* morning to rain.

If Ambrose had been reinvigorated at the sight of a genuine green top, he was positively electrified on the resumption of play by the *sight of Steve Waugh. A short* exchange of words between the two, interrupted by the intervention of umpire Shepherd, followed a high bouncer. The next ball hit Waugh on the shoulder.

*In the highly charged atmo*sphere, however, it was Boon who was the next to perish. In Ambrose's next over he was drawn forward and made contact with another leg cutter, which was comfortably *taken at third slip to the* uncontrolled ecstasy of the fielders.

Blewett's brief attempt to fight fire with fire ended when Winston Benjamin, within two overs of relieving Walsh, made a *ball bounce from a* good length, which was ajudged by umpire Cumberbatch to have found the inside edge.

SCOREBOARD

West Indies won toss

AUSTRALIA

First Innings

*M A Taylor c Adams b Ambrose	2
M J Slater c Murray b Walsh	0
D C Boon c Richardson b Ambrose	18
M E Waugh c Murray b Ambrose	2
S R Waugh not out	50
G S Blewett c Murray b K Benjamin	17
†I A Healy c Richardson b Walsh	8
B P Julian c Adams b K Benjamin	0
Extras (lb 5)	4
Total (7 wkts, 36 overs)	103

P R Reiffel, S K Warne and G D McGrath to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-2, 3-14, 4-37, 5-62, 6-95, 7-98

Cricket mourns Bob Wyatt

By Simon Wilde

ENGLAND'S eldest surviv*ing Test cricketer, Bob Wyatt,* a former captain of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and his country, died yesterday, aged 93. *He* was vice-captain to Douglas Jardine on the infamous "bodyline" tour of 1932-33 and led England in their next series against Australia, in 1934, when his tact and diplomacy helped to heal still-*tender wounds.*

Sir Donald Bradman, whose phenomenal batting skills the "bodyline" strategy was designed to curb, yesterday paid tribute to a formidable opponent and friend. "*Bob was a very good bats*man, pedestrian rather than exciting," Sir Donald said. "He lived by the rulebook. You would hardly picture him as a West Indian.

"He was a typically Eng*lish*-coached type of *player* but he was very well worth his place in the Test side. His captaincy was just like his batting, according to the rulebook. He was astute but did not have particular flair."

Harold Larwood, Jardine's principal fast-bowling agent during the "bodyline" series who is himself 90, also acknowledged Wyatt's adhesive qualities. "He was a good *batsman, very stubborn,*" *he* said yesterday from his home in Australia. "He did not take many risks. I did not get to know him well on Jardine's tour because in those days we [the professionals] did not have the same dressing-room as the amateurs. The only time I really saw him was out on the field. He was not very *'pally' with anybody. He liked* to be with himself."

Wyatt began a long playing career in 1923 and in first-class matches scored 39,405 runs at an average of 40.04 and took 901 wickets at 32.84. In 40 Test appearances between 1927 and 1937, he scored 1,839 runs, average 31.70, and led England 16 times, winning three matches and losing five. After the Second World War he spent six seasons with Worcestershire and played his last first-class match at the age of 56. He was an England *selector shortly after the war.*

Dennis Amiss, Warwickshire's chief executive, said yesterday: "When Bob came to Warwickshire to watch the big games, players would seek him out to hear his views. He was a *great theorist.* He did not think everything had changed for the better but he appreciated the modern game. He possessed a tremendous presence and I think everybody had a great affection for him. He was one of Warwickshire's all-time greats." Wyatt was due to open a new stand at Edgbaston, named after him, on the first day of the Test match between England and West Indies in July.

Roger Knight, secretary of MCC, said: "Bob Wyatt will be remembered for his playing days with Warwickshire and as England captain. He was a real fighter."

Wyatt's death leaves five living England Test players over the age of 85 — Tommy Mitchell, 92, Larwood 90, "Hopper" Levett, 87, Alf Gover, 87, and "Hopper" Read, 85.

Obituary, page 21

England A required only six balls to secure an emphatic victory over Warwickshire by *an innings and 58 runs at* Edgbaston yesterday.

Scoreboard, page 38

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مكتبة امين الاحول

Oh baby! On the road in a 16-ton buggy

Page 10

CAR 95

The search begins for Company Car Driver of the Year

Page 2

SATURDAY APRIL 22 1995

A Bill now going through Parliament could radically alter rallying in this country, reports **Oliver Holt**

MARC ASPLAND

On the wrong track? A new Environment Bill that emphasises the "quiet enjoyment and understanding" of Britain's National Parks could, believe some, deal a devastating blow to the country's most popular spectator sport

'Green' law threatens future of motor sport

Britain's biggest spectator sport is under threat because of two problem clauses in a government Bill now passing through the House of Commons.

Events such as the RAC Rally, which is watched by more than a million people every November, and five rounds of the Mobil 1/Top Gear British Rally Championship, could be altered beyond recognition if the letter of the law is enforced.

The Environment Bill, which went through the Commons last week, demands that:

- National Parks are promoted as havens of "quiet enjoyment and understanding".
- Where there is a conflict between activities, such as motor sport, and quiet enjoyment of the countryside, the authorities must "attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area".

The Commons Environment Committee is hearing evidence on whether events such as rallying upset forests and woodland already under attack from other activities, such as off-road driving. Environmentalists believe that MPs will have to decide whether the countryside can withstand the huge assault from motor vehicles.

> 'If the legislation goes through unchanged, it could be enormously detrimental'

Neil Sinden, heritage spokesman at the Council for the Protection of Rural England, says: "We are echoing the growing concerns of people who see events like rallying as harming large parts of the countryside. We need to refine the rules under which National Parks are governed."

A high percentage of rallies staged in Britain take place on dirt roads and tracks running through National Parks. Any bar on rallying in them would, for instance, mean a wholescale re-routing of the Pirelli International Rally, the second stage of the British Rally Championship, taking place in Northumberland's Kielder Forest this weekend.

Part of the essence of rallying is the scenery that surrounds the competition, the battles with natural obstacles. The spectacle of cars in the RAC Rally hurtling through the Grizedale Forest at dawn as the sun rises over Lake Windermere is one of the most inspiring sights in motor sport. The RAC fears it could be lost if the Bill is made law without changes.

John Quenby, chief executive of the RAC Motor Sports Association, fears the repercussions are potentially far-reaching.

He says: "I spoke to somebody recently from the Friends of the Lake District National Parks and they said I had nothing to worry about. They said rallying would always be welcome there. But my fear is that if you do not take steps to make sure motor sport is not affected, then somebody who is so minded could make mischief. The situation is open for misinterpretation.

"If the legislation goes through unchanged, it represents a real risk of being interpreted in a manner that is bound to be enormously detrimental to motor sport. We are not seeking to expand our limited use of venues within the National Parks, rather we are keen to ensure that the status quo is maintained and a century of tradition is respected. In real terms, there is little evidence of conflict in our activities."

The discipline of following a rally through the countryside tends to support Mr Quenby's concerns. The cars come and go within a few hours for each stage, but with them comes the inevitable tally of accidents, damage to trees and shrubs, fences and walls. The noise they make, even after turbo-chargers have been largely outlawed, sounds like a huge bear growling in the woods.

Then there are the accompaniments. The crowds that flock to rallying need somewhere to park and the teams of mechanics have designated spots to repair and coax wounded and battered machinery. Most are conscientious about covering their tracks but disruption and more noise are caused by their efforts.

Anybody who views rallying with distaste and as detrimental to the countryside, rather than merely being a focus for enjoyment, could perhaps see this as their chance to pounce. The RAC is, therefore, intensifying its lobbying of MPs of all parties and encouraging members to write to their own representatives, to ensure that that opportunity does not arise.

No peace: the widow and a vehicle on the byway near her home

Uproar at rural invaders

An 80-year-old widow is the victim of a legal loophole that allows off-road vehicles to plough through land within yards of her once peaceful farmhouse, turning a grassy track into a quagmire (Vaughan Freeman writes).

The woman, who dare not be named for fear of reprisals, is one of dozens of landowners challenging the right of four-wheel-drive enthusiasts to leave the tarmac and plough up ancient bridleways and footpaths.

They are demanding a change in the law to end the battle that rages every weekend on what should be quiet backwaters of rural Britain.

A new pressure group, the Green Laning Environmental Association Movement (Gleam), says the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act has provided drivers with a licence to plough up ancient tracks. Under the Act, county councils had to classify ancient tracks as bridleways, on which access is restricted to horses, cyclists and walkers, or byways, open to all traffic.

Many green-lane tracks have now been signposted as byways, so off-roaders now drive where they like — even through the middle of the widow's home near Braintree

Continued on page 3, col 1

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PETER TREVNOR

Ready for the off: Colin-Grant Wilson, managing director of Lease Plan, with two of the Nissan Primeras that will be used in road tests to select The Times-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year

THE TIMES

LEASE PLAN COMPANY CAR DRIVER 1995

Company ....

Address ....

.... Postcode ....

Entrant .... Position ....

Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for your company's car fleet.

Tel No .... Fax No ....

Nature of Business ....

No of employees .... No of company cars ....

Nominated drivers

Surname ....Age	Surname ....Age ......
Forename(s)	*Forename(s)* ....
Job title	Job title ....
How long employed .... yrs Points on licence	How long employed .... yrs Points on licence ....
Surname ....Age	Surname ....Age ......
Forename(s)	Forename(s) ....
Job title	Job title ....
How long employed .... yrs Points on licence	How long employed .... yrs Points on licence ....

Please select one first and one second choice for the location and date of your team's regional heat (indicate your selection by placing a 1 or 2 within box):

Oxford, (Moat House), 8th June ☐

Nottingham, (Moat House), 14th June ☐

Hereford, (Moat House), 28th June ☐

Ware, Hertfordshire, (Briggens House Hotel) 12th July ☐

Glasgow, (Moat House International), 22nd June ☐

Blackburn, (Moat House), 4th July ☐

Please ensure that you and your nominated drivers are available on both your first and second choice and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 11th August. Initial qualification will be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Send completed entries by 17 May, 1995 to: The Times - Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995, Leedex PR, 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF

COMPETITION RULES

The closing date for entries is 17 May 1995. Drivers must be over 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitors' driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. *Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a* company car or vehicle as part of their employment or remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependant on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the event, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like may not be permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed by post, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify for the regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend, the next highest scoring driver from that regional heat will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European motoring holiday for two. The team/company prize will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judges's decision is final

So you're a top driver? Prove it

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company
Car
Driver
1995

Kevin Eason

introduces our prize-winning competition to find the best on Britain's roads

Their reputation sends a shiver down the spines of motorists harried in the outside *lane by flashy hatchbacks*, complete with jacket on a *hanger in the rear window*.

For every bad company car driver, though, there are dozens of good ones who are patient, skilful and safe — and we are trying to find the best.

The search starts today for *The Times*-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year. The competition will be an exacting examination of driver skills checked by a team of highly-qualified instructors from Drive Tech, one of the country's leading training organisations.

The tests will take place on road and track, to assess the knowledge and skill of drivers *who spend much of their daily* lives at the wheel. However, *that does not mean the competition* is limited to high-mileage *drivers*: any company car driver is eligible.

Colin Grant-Wilson, managing director of Lease Plan, says: "This competition is a test of skill but also shows that modern motoring does not have to be a tortured experience; it can be fun and an enjoyable learning experience.

"*The Times*-Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition is a serious motoring accolade and one no safety-conscious company driver *should ignore*."

Steven Norris, the Minister for Roads, yesterday praised *the competition for its significant* contribution to accident prevention.

"If every company car driver reached the exacting standard necessary to reach the finals of this competition," he said, "this would make a significant contribution to the reduction of a third in casualties which the Government has pledged to make by the year 2000."

We want 120 teams of three drivers from each company to go with their fleet manager to six regional heats. The teams *will be chosen by a surprise* telephone quiz, carried out *when drivers least expect their* knowledge of the Highway Code to be tested. Teams who *get through this stage* then have to sit a written exam and *prove their driving skills on* the road and in judgment tests with the Drive Tech team. The drivers' fleet manager is also needed at the heats, to *sit* a written test that qualifies the team for the company prize.

Every competitor will use the same car — a Nissan Primera 2.0SLX, which has won awards around Europe and is made at Washington, Tyne & Wear — to ensure fairness.

The best 12 drivers will qualify for the final at Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix, where the tests will be extended to the skid *pan and high-speed* manoeuvres, examined by the *Silverstone Driving Centre* under the watchful eye of John *Watson, the former Formula* One race ace.

For the winner, there is an expenses-paid driving holiday for two around Europe, from Milan to Vienna and Paris — or wherever he or she wants to go — plus £500 spending money, while his of her company wins driver training for 12 other members of the company fleet, a valuable prize for the business with safety and costs in mind.

Just round up a team, fill in the coupon and *have* it countersigned by your fleet manager — and get ready for action. The closing date for entries is *May 17*.

● LONDON

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper *Edmonton*: width reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct *until end of year*.
A219 Putney Bridge: *reduced to one lane each way* for repairs until June.
A501 *Pentonville Rd, Kings* Cross: major works between *York Way* and Kings Cross Rd. Lane closures.
A3 Southwark High St closed at junction with St Thomas St, Southwark St and London Bridge St on Friday. Diversions.

● SOUTH EAST

M25 Surrey *J7-8*: roadworks cause regular delays and affects traffic joining from M23 northbound.
M25 *Surrey J10-11*: major widening work with lane *closures either way*.
A3 Guildford: major works between Stoke Interchange and Compton. Long delays.
A27 Chichester Bypass, Sussex: contraflow between Stockbridge and Bognor Rd *roundabouts, with lane closures also at Westhampnett until May*.
M275 Hants: between Portsmouth and M27, contraflow for major maintenance.
A420 near Faringdon, Oxfordshire: temporary lights 24 hours a day for major roadworks. Regular delays between Oxford and Swin*don*.

● SOUTH WEST

M5 Avon J17-19: lane closures each way as part of the New Severn Crossing works.
M5 Glos J11-12: contraflow in place until September.
M5 Avon J16-J17: from today major roadworks and contraflow.
A417 Glos: *contraflow on* Barnwood Bypass until mid-July.
A350 Warminster, Wilts: temporary lights 24 hours a day for roadworks.
A3102 Swindon: contraflow on Wootton Bassett Road, east of Whitehill Way.
A36 Somerset: major roadworks near Norton Saint *Philip, at A366 junction until* May.
A358 Taunton: roundabout construction on Bishops Lydeard Rd at Penn Elm Hill.
A31 Dorset: major roadworks on Ashley Heath and Woolsbridge roundabouts cause long delays regularly.
A35 Dorset: temporary lights for roadworks, between *Puddletown and Tolpuddle* until May.
A3074 *Cornwall*: roadworks between Carbis Bay and St Ives, lots of temporary traffic lights so peak-time delays envitable. Will affect traffic heading to A30.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M6 *J6 Birmingham area and* south of Spaghetti Junction: *major roadworks starting today*, 50mph limit, restrictions *on slip roads*.
A43 Silverstone: resurfacing work with temporary lights daily, long delays.
A4123 near Dudley: one lane closed each way on Birmingham New Rd, between Burnt Tree island and Tipton Rd junction until June.
A45 *Stonebridge*: flyover construction at A452 junction *and widening between M42* J6 & Stonebridge Island, 40mph *limit* and lane closures until June.

● NORTH

M6 Cheshire J20-21A: roadworks continue near Thelwall Viaduct until May.
M18 *J3-J4* Doncaster area): contraflow with southbound *exit slip closed at J3*.
A633 Rotherham: gas repairs on *Barnsley Rd* at Wath, near to Church St. Temporary lights, long delays likely especially at peak-times.
A653 Leeds: roadworks start May 1 on Dewsbury Rd in connection with new M621/M1 link road.

● WALES

A467 Newport: *contraflow* on Forge Lane while improvement work underway on A48 at Tredegar Park roundabout.
A5 Maerdy, Clwyd: work continue at Glyn bends. *Restrictions include* temporary lights and short term closures until end July.
A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow along the *Saltings viaduct for resurfacing*. Add extra 30 minutes on *journeys at peak-times*.
A4223 Pontypridd: one-way *system operating* on Gelliwastad Rd because of widening work.

● SCOTLAND

Edinburgh: width restrictions on High St between North and South bridges until end of June.
A8 Glasgow: Paisley Rd West closed eastbound between Portman St and Paisley Rd toll, with diversions for city bound traffic.

● NORTHERN IRELAND

A26 *Co Londonderry*: temporary lights on [illegible] Rd at junction with [illegible] Bypass [illegible]

'A motorway puncture could have been lethal. How long before the woman got help? Leave the children in the car? The mind boggles'

Brace yourself for a turn on the wheel of misfortune

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

Women drivers have special problems on our roads, *most of them called men.* Some of the Neanderthals who *terrorise women in cars can also be* found in the saloon bars of public *houses, dishing out ridicule from* the Bonehead's Phrasebook: she *didn't know what a spark plug was!* She stopped on the hard shoulder to *powder her nose! You'd think she'd* be able to change a tyre!

The last of these tedious insults came to mind the other day when a *woman visiting our house* with three children under five set off for *home but returned on foot an hour* later. She had a puncture. She *couldn't even change a tyre?* Well, let's see.

I set off for the stricken car, calmly removed the jack and the spare *wheel from the boot and* placed the wheel brace over one of *the nuts. A chorus of muscles sang a* protest song. I stood on the brace, it *flew off the nut. Being a man, I* realised what I needed: I needed another man. *The local* garage mechanic drove to the scene, took *one look at the brace provided with* the car (a VW Passat) and said: *"You'll never get them off with* that." He produced a ratcheted *wheel brace with a 2ft handle* — the length of the handle being the *crucial bit* — and changed the tyre.

Now if this had happened far *from a friendly house, such as on a* motorway, the puncture could have been lethal. How long would the *woman have had to wait for help?* What about the walk to the emer*gency telephone? Leave the children* in the car? Take them along the *hard shoulder? The mind* boggles.

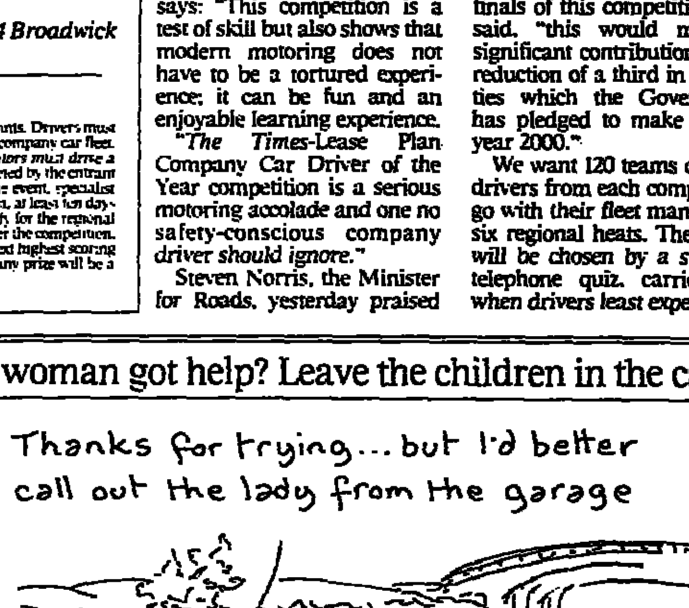
Whereas changing the tyre would take, what, *10 minutes? Except that* the wheels have been put on with a *machine (by the manufacturers and* at most garages) and the wheel *brace is a dinky little number* whose only possible use is as a *defensive weapon against Neanderthals* (so perhaps it would be better *kept under the seat).*

I do not blame *manufacturers and garages for machining-on nuts,* but surely the torque settings of *these devices could quite easily be* set so that said nuts will actually *come off again with an ordinary* brace?

It is *scandalous that a £16,000 car* can be rendered useless for the lack of a decent brace. *Nor do I think* that the first thing one should have to do with a *new car is buy it a* wheel brace that will work. Or have all the wheel *nuts taken off and* replaced at a reasonable tightness. *Giving away mobile telephones* with new cars is a marketing ploy *for which I applaud Ford, and* others who have taken it up, but in *the case of people broken down* with punctures this is attacking the *symptom, not the disease.*

While we wait for the manufac*turers to wake up, I recommend a* leaflet for women drivers produced by the Institute of Advanced Motorists and available, free, from them at *359-365 Chiswick High Road,* London W4 4HS. Do send the *institute* a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

*Incidentally, 31 per cent of appli*cants for the institute's advanced test are women and they have the same pass rate as men.


Thanks for trying... but I'd better call out the lady from the garage
TUF 1
GED

IN-CAR entertainment remains a huge industry and even has its own magazines, but I was rather intrigued to discover this week that the notion of buying car radios which are coded, supposedly to make them useless to thieves, is not quite all that it seems.

There are people out there who *have invested several thousands in* a machine which plugs into a dead radio and runs through every permutation of four-number codes *there is until it finds* the one that brings the radio to life. Cost to the *punter*, in the case *I heard about*, was £35.

A *handy service*, if you have genuinely lost the code for an *expensive radio. But surely* manufacturers, or at most main agents, *should be the only people allowed* to use them?

I have a similar view about radar detectors, which are on open sale. *You are allowed to have one*, but it is illegal if you are caught using it. *They ought not to be availble at all.* Nor should radio code-breakers. *They are anti-social.*

A SURVEY for the BBC's Top Gear among owners of K-reg cars shows *Japanese cars exclusively dominat*ing the top ten and only one *European car, a Mercedes*, in the top 20.

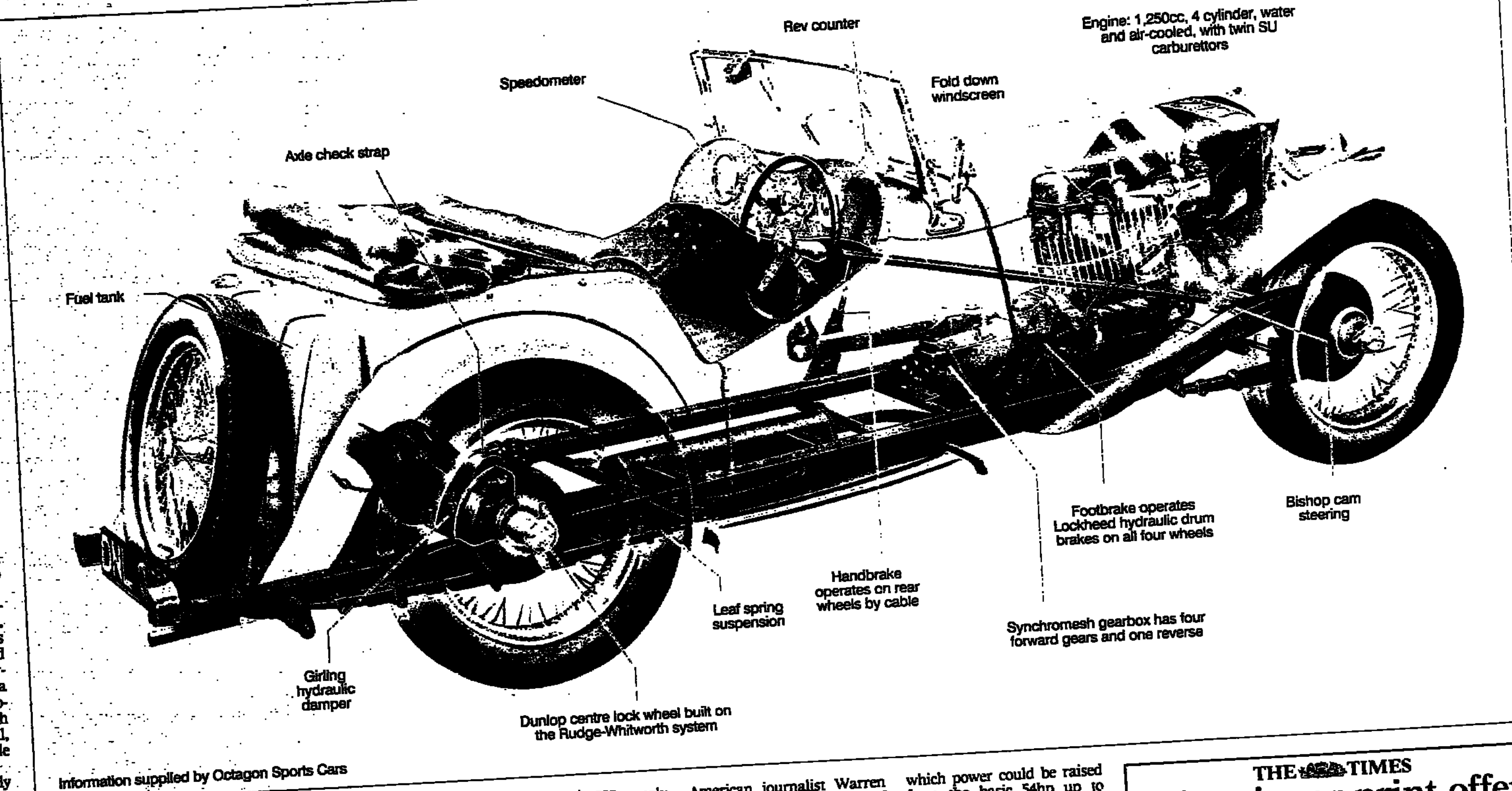
The Ford Escort was bottom of the pile, so the car we buy most is the car we like least. *Discuss.*

هذا من الأصل

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, continuing his series on a dozen vehicles that made Britain great, selects the MG TC, a classic postwar sports car

The Midget that grew up into a giant

Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON


Rev counter
Engine: 1,250cc, 4 cylinder, water and air-cooled, with twin SU carburettors
Speedometer
Fold down windscreen
Axle check strap
Fuel tank
Footbrake operates Lockheed hydraulic drum brakes on all four wheels
Bishop cam steering
Handbrake operates on rear wheels by cable
Leaf spring suspension
Synchromesh gearbox has four forward gears and one reverse
Girling hydraulic damper
Dunlop centre lock wheel built on the Rudge-Whitworth system

Information supplied by Octagon Sports Cars

If the 3-litre Bentley is the classic British vintage sports car, the MG Midget is no less a classic in the world of small sports cars. Moreover, it had a much longer life and spread the fame of its maker much further afield than Bentley did.

The first Midget appeared in 1928, the year in which the MG Car Company was formed. The name was an abbreviation of Morris Garages, a dealership in Oxford managed by Cecil Kimber. He modified Morris Cowleys and Oxfords, selling them under the name "The MG Super Sports Morris", and gradually the cars became more individual, using components bought from several sources instead of simply being improved Morrises.

The first Midget, known as the M-type, was the first low-priced MG and was only made possible by William Morris's introduction of his Austin Seven-rivalling small car, the Morris Minor. This had an excellent overhead camshaft engine, itself a Wolseley design acquired when Morris bought up Wolseley in 1927.

Kimber bought these engines direct from Wolseley, installed them in a Morris Minor chassis with lowered suspension and greater steering rake, and mounted a simple two-seater body of fabric-covered plywood on an ash frame. It had a pointed tail, cycle-type wings and a little vee windscreen.

The bodies cost Kimber only £6.50 each, and he was able to sell the complete car for £175. Orders poured in and in its first year, more Midgets were sold than all of the previous MGs added together. Its importance cannot be overestimated, for it introduced sports cars and sports car driving to countless people who thought the breed was beyond them, either in terms of price or driving ability.

The overhead camshaft engine was continued in Midgets and other MGs in the early 1930s but 1936 saw a change of direction. Wolseley no longer made such engines and MG had to use the pushrod units from the Morris-Wolseley range. The new Midget, known as the TA, had a 1292cc engine similar, though not identical, to that used in the Wolseley Ten.

Purists sneered that it was no longer a true MG — and they regretted the quieter exhaust note so much that the system was altered to give a little more noise! However, the TA was roomier and the engine smoother and more flexible. It gave way to the Morris Ten-powered TB in 1939 and this was the direct ancestor of the postwar TC.

Although looking much the same as the TB, the TC was four inches wider in the cockpit. Like most car manufacturers the world over, MG could not afford to waste early peacetime designing new models; meeting the pent-up demand for new cars was the priority and it was obvious that the British motorist liked the MG Midget.

It was not thought that foreigners would buy the thing anyway, so nobody was more surprised than MG when sales of the TC Midget began to take off in America. At first they came to the US via Germany, where they were bought by servicemen; only in 1947 did direct sales to America begin.

The TC was hardly a bargain, priced at $2,395, nearly as much as a Buick Super Eight five-passenger convertible. Though called a sports car, its top speed of 78mph was about 10mph behind that of the Buick. It had no heater, no bumpers, its semi-elliptic suspension gave a very hard ride compared with the independent front suspension Americans were becoming accustomed to, its steering wheel was on the wrong side (unlike the later TD, the TC was never made with left-hand drive) and there were no service facilities.

Against all these defects, though, it was *fun*. As the American journalist Warren Weieth wrote: "It was a way of life. A wildly different car that you jazzed around in on weekdays and raced at weekends. It was a moving spot of colour on a still-drab postwar landscape."

The TC was important not so much for what it was as for what it started. Prior to its arrival in America, the cheap sports car was unknown. Owners soon began racing their MGs — not only famous names such as Briggs Cunningham, John Fitch and Phil Hill, but countless amateurs across the country. Membership of the American branch of the MG Car Club grew dramatically between 1947 and the early 1950s and the Sports Car Club of America, which was to promote the famous Trans-Am stock car races from the 1960s onwards, had more MGs on its roster than any other make in the early postwar years. The enthusiasm for fun motoring which the TC engendered led to demand for home-grown sports cars, which Chevrolet and Ford were soon to satisfy with the Corvette and Thunderbird.

Contrary to popular belief, the bulk of TCs were not sold in America, which took 2,001 of the 10,000 cars made. The other 4,691 export sales were to Switzerland, Belgium, Africa, Australia, Singapore and other countries. The home market took 3,408. They were widely raced here, too, and the company produced a manual of tuning recommendations, by which power could be raised from the basic 54hp up to 97.5hp with a supercharger. This was another trend set by the TC Midget: company-backed tuning, which was later used by Ford to such good effect.

Another tradition started by the TC was royal enthusiasm for small sports cars. The first new car owned by Lt Philip Mountbatten was a TC, and he used it when courting Princess Elizabeth, despite rumoured disapproval by her parents, who thought a noisy little sports car not the most suitable transport for the future Queen. Two decades later, Prince Charles chose for his first car an MGC coupé.

The Midget name lived on in the TD and TF of the 1950s, cars which handled better with their independent front suspension, but which were frowned on at the time by purists. A much higher proportion of TDs crossed the Atlantic than TCs — 23,500 out of 29,644.

The arrival of the MGA in 1955 ended the run of Midgets for a while, but the name returned in 1961 on the little cars which shared their bodyshell and engine with the Austin-Healey Sprite. The MG version was made until 1980 but although there is no Midget on the market today, the newly announced mid-engined MGF is surely a car in the same mould. How sad it is that it cannot be sold in the United States because there is no longer a dealer network there.

> 'In its first year, more were sold than all previous MG cars'

THE TIMES

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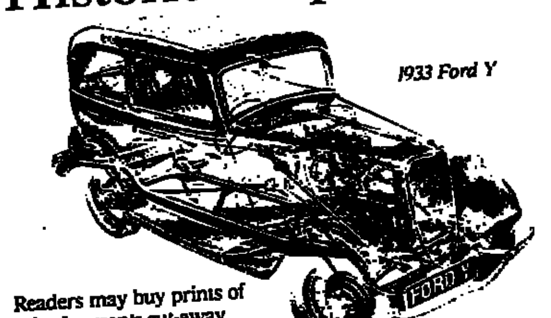

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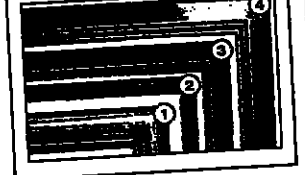

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Attitude problems of a sporting hero

David Watts recalls that image was everything for a car called Jug

A LONG, sleek black nose with flared wings atop silver wire wheels and a cockpit reminiscent of a Sopwith Camel: the MG TC embodied all that a sports car should be.

Driving gloves, a sheepskin jacket and a straight-through exhaust that barked with every jab of the accelerator topped off the image of a car, a driver and an attitude which were everything they should not be.

JUG 951 — or Jug for short — had big fat racing tyres at the back which were twice the width of those at the front.

The effect was that the road-holding was excellent in the rear but indifferent to non-existent at the front, which, on North Yorkshire's narrow summer lanes, meant the front tended to go straight on at corners, particularly on wet roads. Couple that with a favourite pub some five miles distant down those same lanes, a bitter rivalry with the owner of a Morgan 4/4, and one was fortunate to survive to the mid-twenties.

Not that the TC was a fire-breathing monster. Any family saloon of the 1990s could outrun it with ease but it was the manifest sense of adventure and the proximity to the ground that made it fun — along, of course, with its ability to attract the opposite sex. The ladies withstood the discomfort with extraordinary *sang froid*, including repeated mechanical mishaps which saw the intrepid driver being towed back to base from all four points of the compass.

In fact, Jug became so popular, and the coterie wanting to come along for the ride so large, that I had to persuade a very dubious local bobby that everything was legal so long as the three or four people riding on the back had their feet and hands within the car.

AS WITH most such cars, the ratio of maintenance to operational time would probably have disgraced Concorde, but then that was supposed to be half the fun. And it was, until I attempted a barrel roll in Jug — inadvertently, of course.

Late one summer night, the TC struck some rugged Derbyshire dry stone walling. A lesser vehicle would have bounced off, retired hurt. But not Jug. She demolished the wall and took off to describe in mid-air the first half of a graceful barrel roll. Fortunately for me, this was long before the invention of the safety belt.

As the car went upside down I must have fallen out, since I came to lying in the middle of the road with a car bearing down on me and the wreckage of Jug lying forlornly, a mangled mass of glass and metal where my head would have been had I stayed on board.

The remains were winched into a cattle truck and rebuilt before I sold the car for a sum that makes teenage sons wince at the thought of what she would be worth today.

Continued from page 1

in Essex. The lane runs between her stables and barn and she frequently has to dodge motorcycles and four-wheel-drives before she can cross.

The widow's problems started two years ago when her "drive" was reclassified as a byway, and the off-roaders arrived.

She says: "It was peace on earth when I moved here 18 years ago. Then the bridleway was reclassified and since then it has been murder. Four-wheel-drive cars come down here eight, even 10 at a time, and then there are the motorcycles."

Her dilemma highlights a growing crisis as off-road motorists tangle with locals who complain of noise, pollution and environmental damage.

Andrew Dunlop and his wife moved into their mill cottage in Glatton, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, 10 years ago. Then the neighbouring path was a haven, home of the great crested newt, and used mostly by walkers. "It used to be just a grass track with trees either side; full of wildlife," he says.

The track was reclassified as a byway and the off-roaders arrived. "I've seen six or seven off-roaders travelling in convoy, 20 motorcycles at once, even an armoured personnel carrier. The lane became a quagmire." After a legal case that cost the Dunlops £15,000 in legal fees, the reclassification has been overturned by the High Court and gates are due to go up this month to stop vehicles using the track.

David Gardiner, Gleam's chairman elect, lives near the Ridgeway, thought to be Britain's oldest right of way, which runs 85 miles from Wiltshire to Hertfordsire, and a green lane, known as Old Street, which runs to the Ridgeway from the village of Chieveley. He says: "Old Street may be even older than the Ridgeway. It is seven miles long, and four-and-a-half miles of it has been damaged with mud ruts two feet deep. It is impassable on foot or on horse. Old Street is hundreds if not thousands of years old and in just one winter it has been absolutely ruined by off-road vehicles."

Mr Gardiner blames the soaring number of off-roader sales, up from 8,000 a year in 1983 to 60,000 in 1993, and the consequences of the 1981 Act. He says the law must be changed: "It might be great fun to drive a four-wheel-drive down a green lane, but they simply are not suitable for use on an unsurfaced road."

Dr Dashboard, page 10

TONY WHITE

Fiesta time: Alexandra Frean and the boys in her back-up team at Brands Hatch

Alexandra Frean finds herself in a spin at Brands

Lapping up life in the not-so-fast lane ...

Strapped into a Ford Fiesta RS1800 racing saloon, clad from head to toe in a fire-proof suit, crash helmet firmly fastened and my car awkwardly positioned on the grass in the middle of the Brands Hatch racing circuit, I watched as everybody else sped by. My vehicle had spun off the track after just one lap and I was wondering what to do next.

Taking part in a support race at the British Touring Car Championship (BTCC) last weekend, I realised life in the fast lane is as much about tactics and knowledge of the rules of racing and trackcraft, as it is about driving fast. One of the basic rules I picked up after spinning off during testing is to get back on to the circuit as soon as possible if the car is not damaged.

I also learned that competing in an organised race requires nerves of steel, not so much because there is anything intrinsically frightening about driving fast, but more because race meetings involve hours of waiting around between events and far too much time for rethinking tactics and eye-balling the competition.

I entered the Ford Credit Fiesta Challenge event, one of nine races at the BTCC event staged at Brands on Bank Holiday Monday in front of 29,000 spectators. It's one of the country's top one-make saloon car racing series. Qualifying sessions took place the day before.

Although the only woman and the sole novice in a field of 33 seasoned male drivers, I felt relatively calm while driving, even when I spun off during my brief test drive.

For the 30-minute qualifying session, all my concentration was focused on attempting to take the car through the all-important "racing line" (the shortest route through each bend), attempting to build up speed, and avoiding the other competitors as they crowded around, behind and on both sides, within — literally — centimetres of my car.

Colin Stancombe, an experienced Fiesta Credit Challenge driver, who won Monday's event, advised me to use "a light touch" and "finger-tip" control on the steering wheel. Every muscle of my body was so tense, however, that I failed to do this and woke up the next day with aching arms.

Although my lap time in the qualifying round was not fast enough to allow me to enter the main race on the Monday, I was proud that I had taken part, without any obvious damage to myself or my car. As John Hartshorne, who finished 11th in Monday's Fiesta Credit Challange, told me: "The roads are full of blokes who think they could do better than most racing drivers, but put them in a car on the grid at Brands Hatch at the start of the race and they would suddenly change their minds." It is not quite as easy as it looks.

My vehicle was provided by Ford, which runs a celebrity car to raise money for the Women On the Move Against Cancer charity and for the Macmillan Appeal. Stancombe Vehicle Engineering provided the technical back-up, moral support and countless cups of tea.

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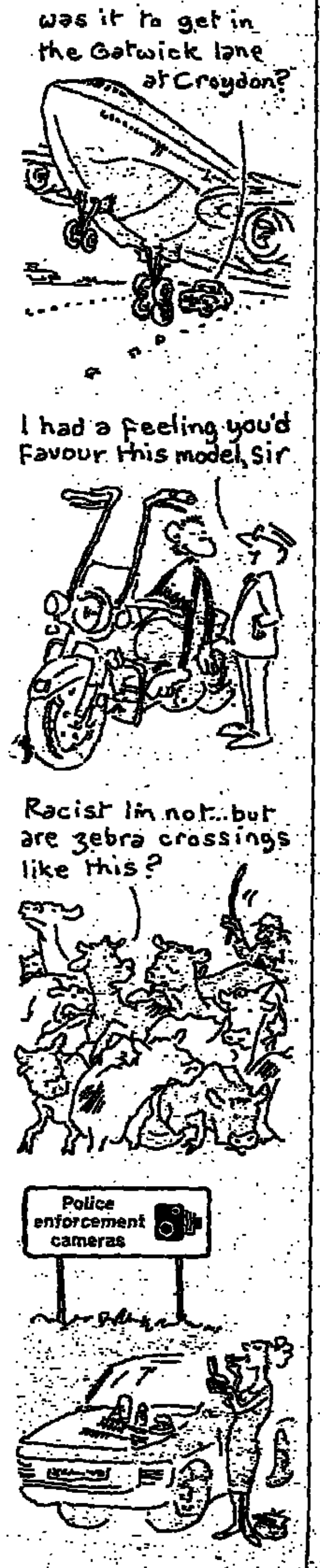
...and whose idea was it to get in the Gatwick lane at Croydon?
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GED MELLING

Jessica Gorst-Williams highlights an often unforeseen element in calculating car economy

Oil change bills can push up diesel costs

The cost of oil changes comes low on the agenda of most car buyers, but would-be diesel owners should know they can put fragile bank balances into the red.

Diesels are often bought with economy in mind, and there is a gain through low fuel consumption and an engine that hums its way round the clock several times. However, add more frequent oil changes to the equation and the picture looks cloudier, particularly where a warranty insists the work is done by a franchised dealer.

Diesel engines work harder, at higher pressure and temperature, and get dirtier than petrol engines, so oil changes are crucial. These can cost more than £80 a time and, for some older models, may be required every 3,000 miles. Unlike petrol cars, most new diesels also need an oil and filter change after the first 1,000 to 1,500 miles.

When I bought my second-hand turbo diesel H-reg Golf GTD, a salesman said changing the oil every 5,000 miles might cost £50 with a franchised dealer but would be far less at the little garage down the road. However, I was taking out an extended warranty which requires all maintenance to be done by a VW dealer. The bill for the latest oil change was £82.74. Broken down, it worked out at £39.50 for an hour's labour; filter £12.50; seal 40p; lubricants £18.02; and VAT of £12.32.

Roy Staunton, head of technical advice for the AA, said: "Diesels normally need twice as many oil changes as petrol cars. Oil gets black quickly, it dilutes and loses lubrication, which can result in engine damage. People buying diesels should realise that the fuel consumption benefit only comes into play for high annual mileage users."

Owners not shackled by a warranty can shop around. A small unaffiliated local garage in Kent quotes "£17 to £20 for the work, £12.50 for the oil and £6.50 for the filter". A similar garage in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, said it would charge £35-£40. KwikFit does an oil and filter change, including labour, from £9.95 for engines up to 1250cc to £15.95 for those over 3001cc. Halfords Superstores would have changed the oil and filter in my car for £15.99.

Do the work yourself and, depending on the type of car, the filter would cost from around £4 and oil from £6.

Kevin Oxley, manager of Peugeot dealers Brown and White in Huddersfield, said Peugeot diesels "need an oil change after the first 1,000 to 1,500 miles for which we charge, depending on the model, around £25 just for materials. At this stage, labour is free.

"After that, they need oil changes every 6,000 miles or six months, whichever is the shorter, and petrol cars every 9,000 miles or 12 months. The oil and filter change costs around £35 plus VAT, except for the new diesel 106 which also has to have a fuel filter change at 6,000 miles." Only the first service has to be done by a Peugeot dealer; after that, work can be done by a reputable garage.

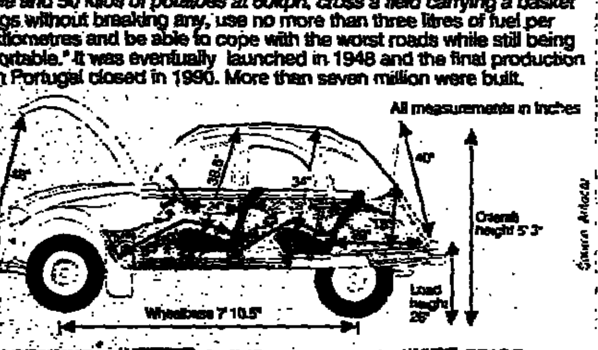
Stephen Campion, group after-sales manager at the Penton Citroën dealer in Salisbury, calculates an oil and filter change would normally cost in the region of £50. Where five litres of oil are used, this breaks down at £19.75 for oil, £16.25 for labour and £6.96 for the filter, plus VAT. Under their extended warranty, the work would have to be done by an authorised dealer.

Mr Campion said: "Under the manufacturer's warranty, it is also important to stay with an authorised dealer. Where there is a problem after the warranty expired, there could still be a legacy of goodwill for customers loyal to the franchise. For today's diesel Citroëns, oil changes are due at 6,000 miles or 12 months, and for a petrol car at 9,000 miles or 12 months."

Ken Ashmore, senior legal adviser for the AA, said: "There is no legal restriction on what can be charged for changing oil. However, manufacturers do issue guidelines for dealers. If you have to have the work done with a certain garage, you can't do anything about it."

USED CAR BRIEF

CITROEN 2CV
Like the VW Beetle the 2CV was conceived before the Second World War and brought economical motoring within the range of millions. In 1935 Citroën's design team was briefed to build a car that "would carry two people and 50 kilos of potatoes at 60kph, cross a field carrying a basket of eggs without breaking any, use no more than three litres of fuel per 100 kilometres and be able to cope with the worst roads while still being comfortable." It was eventually launched in 1948 and the final production line in Portugal closed in 1990. More than seven million were built.



[illegible]

BAD NEWS: The bulbous shape and thin metal sheeting [illegible]

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT); clutch assembly £250; exhaust system £60; rear shock absorber £25; front brakepads £17; alternator £50; starter motor £55.

SAFETY RATING: The Department of Transport rated the 2CV as up to 25 per cent less safe than the average car in its class

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay around £2,000 for a 1989 F-reg Charleston, £2,250 for a 1990 G-reg Dolly, £1,500 for a 1987 E-reg Dolly, £1,700 for a 1988 E-reg Special and £1,000 for a 1986 G-reg Special.

[illegible]

LOOK FOR: Cars with disc brakes, which were introduced as standard equipment in 1982. [illegible] Special models such as the Dolly and the Charleston are best value but will add £150 to [illegible] price.

TO AVOID: On cars fitted with disc brakes ensure brake fluid reservoir has been filled with the Citroen LHM green fluid. Use of other fluids may have damaged the master cylinder rubbers. Check sills for rust, look under rubber mats for rust, and look around the chassis members at the base of the B posts.

OVERALL: Performance not a strong point. Even Citroen advertised with the slogan "0-60mph time-yes". Top speed can threaten the motorway speed limit. Fuel figures of around 50mpg, surprising passenger room, and that wonderful canvas roof that rolls all the way back, means this is a car that is lots of fun. Just don't hit anything.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The spark plug

THE job of the spark plug is to ignite, by discharging a powerful electrical spark, the mixture of petrol and air in each cylinder. This triggers the explosion that drives the piston back down the cylinder, and so delivers power. Each plug delivers its spark dozens of times a second.

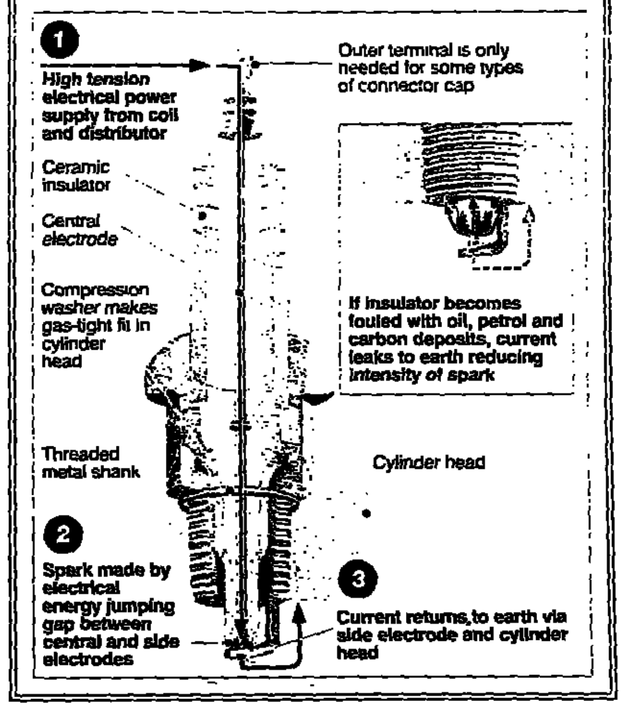
The plug consists of a steel body which threads into the cylinder head. Within the body is a ceramic insulated centre which shrouds the central electrode, usually made of a nickel alloy.

The plug is linked via the distributor to the coil, which supplies a high-voltage charge. The charge is carried down the central electrode of the spark plug and gets as far as the gap between the end of the central electrode and the earth electrode. The earth electrode is at the end of the plug and reaches round from the side of the plug's rim, which threads into the cylinder head.

Each time the charge is delivered, it jumps the gap between the end of the central electrode and the earth electrode to earth itself via the cylinder head. It is this spark which ignites the petrol/air mixture.

The constant flow of high-voltage electricity between the two electrodes, as well as the explosive environment of the cylinder head in which the plug operates, wears away the metal of the electrodes. Plugs need to be cleaned and their adjustment checked every 6,000 miles or so and need replacing every 12,000 miles.

Plugs come in two basic types. The most common has a small metal compression washer or gasket where the plug screws into the cylinder head. As the plug is screwed in, the washer compresses to form a gas-tight seal. The second type has a tapered, machined seat which mates with the seat around the spark plug hole in the cylinder head.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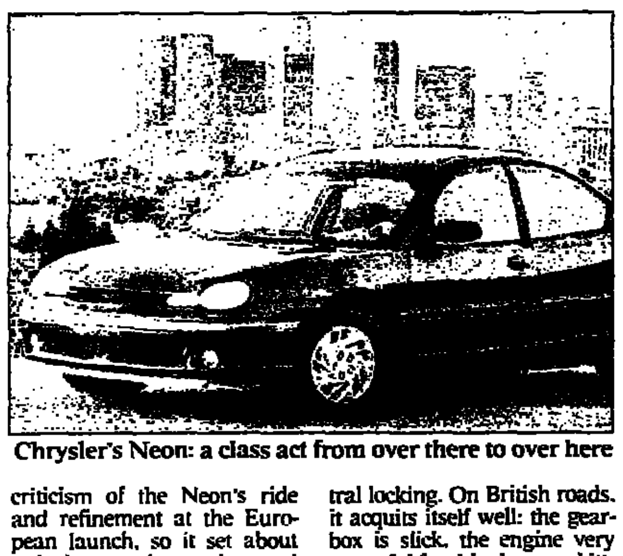
Flashy Neon set to prove a winner for Uncle Sam


Chrysler's Neon: a class act from over there to over here

We may have a special relationship with America, but it has never extended to our mainstream cars being successful in each other's markets. This is about to change with the introduction of Chrysler's US-built Neon to Europe and, by early next year, Britain (Hilton Holloway writes).

One of the main reasons for the Neon's potential over here is the innovative styling. Known in the trade as "cab-forward", Chrysler's stylists have stretched the windscreen and roof pillars forward and given the roof line a distinctive high curve. Add in the oval headlights and clever exterior details, and the overall effect is of a bigger brother to the Vauxhall Corsa. Even the interior is a riot of modish curves and bulges.

Although the Neon is little bigger than an Escort, it has 98 per cent of the internal volume of the larger Mondeo, with the sense of space heightened by the deep dashboard and windows. Only the impossible-to-see boot will cause complaint when parking.

Chrysler was stung by press criticism of the Neon's ride and refinement at the European launch, so it set about reducing engine noise and improving ride quality on European roads before the car went on sale.

A recent drive in the revamped Neon proved it is a serious competitor. All of the cars have a 132bhp, 2.0-litre engine as standard and the specification list will include twin airbags, a cracking stereo, electric windows and central locking. On British roads, it acquits itself well: the gearbox is slick, the engine very powerful for this class, and it's a car with a strong "feel-good" factor.

In the Vento/Astra/Escort class, only Peugeot's 306 Sedan looks to have the style and speed to match it. The well-specified base Neon is likely to cost about £10,300 here, and the top-spec model, including air conditioning and cruise control, about £12,900.

'Ren O Apeel' launched

By Tony Dawe

OWNERS dissatisfied with peeling paint on their Renault Espace "people-carriers" have formed an action group to try to force the company to repair their vehicles.

Under the title Ren O Apeel, they are planning a series of high-profile events, including a day trip on Le Shuttle, which has featured an Espace with gleaming paintwork in advertisements.

"Staging activities like this seems the only hope of making Renault sit up and take notice," said Chris Puckey, the group's co-ordinator. "I have been trying for years to persuade the company to accept responsibility for the paint problems."

The lacquer finish on Mr Puckey's 1985 Espace peeled off in sheets but other owners have experienced "crazing" or microblistering on their paintwork. "There seem to be three problem periods, with vehicles from late 1985, 1987/8 and 1990," Mr Puckey said.

He has received dozen of calls since *CAR 95* reported his complaint two months ago and is hoping other Espace owners with paint problems will contact the group at 30 Beauford Road, Ingham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Renault says the number of complaints is too small to indicate a production problem.

German executives exchange BMWs for Rovers

By Kevin Eason

HUNDREDS of BMW executives are ordering Rovers as their company cars, giving a seal of approval to British-made models which once struggled for credibility in one of the world's most discerning marketplaces.

More than 600 senior managers at the company's headquarters in Munich were given the chance to swap their sleek BMWs, paid for by the company, for Rovers when the German maker bought the British group for £800 million last year.

BMW decided Rover matched its own quality and reliability standards and sanctioned a plan to allow models such as the Mini, the Land Rover Discovery and the Rover 200 and 600 hatchbacks and saloons to be added to the company car list.

BMW admits that many of its executives knew little about Rovers, which sold in small numbers in Germany, until the takeover. However, after meetings in Britain, BMW managers are often given the chance to drive Rovers to learn more about their new partners. As a result, many have placed orders for the cars.

Rover started processing the first 100 orders from Munich last week and dozens more are expected as the managers exchange their BMWs for cars from Birmingham, Solihull and Oxford.

The Mini, 36 years old but still one of Rover's best exports, has proved one of the most popular orders, along with the Land Rover Discovery, Rover's fastest growing model range. Output of the vehicle, launched six years ago, started at 270 a week but will be cranked up to 1,760 a week from August.

Andrew Pierce records the motoring loves and hates of a top disc jockey

What drives Steve Wright crazy in the mornings?

Steve Wright, one of Britain's most popular radio presenters, recorded his last breakfast show for Radio 1 yesterday after 14 years on the BBC airwaves.

Wright, who earned a reputed £165,000 a year, is planning a new career in television. Buoyed by the success of two earlier BBC series, he will be back on the small screen in June with the Steve Wright People Show.

The self-effacing Wright, who will continue radio work, admits he is puzzled by his success on television: "I have the perfect face for radio. I am not good looking and I have a big nose."

How did you learn to drive?

When I was 17. I was working for Tonibell. Felix, the ice-cream man, taught me to drive in between serving 99s. I drove the car better than I served the ice creams.

What was your first car?

A blue Hillman Imp. It was third-hand. It was love at first sight. It was my first valuable possession, which meant I had to sell a lot of ice creams. I saved up for it for two years. It was a bargain at £110. This was long before I joined Radio 1, you understand.

What car do you drive now and why?

The family car is a Volvo which I like because it seems safe, sturdy and ultra reliable. It is a bit sluggish but once it kicks it can really motor. Within the speed limit, of course. Our runaround is an old Scorpio I bought about four years ago. When you are driving between radio and television studios in London, you need a car you don't care about. And I don't. Which is just as well. It has been towed away, clamped, bumped into and even stolen. Unfortunately, like a bad penny, it always comes back.

What is your dream car?

I have always fancied one of those hand-made Morgans. Anything which has been put together with such painstaking effort must be worth having. I think the television series will have to be a great success before I fulfil that ambition.

What is your most hated car?

One which is jacked up on bricks. The dubious delights of Ford Escorts and Vauxhall Cavaliers leave me cold.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Scratching my nose when I think nobody is looking. Trouble is, I normally get it wrong — and they are looking.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

I don't like anybody who wears a hat in the car. I also think motorists over the age of 60 tend to drive dangerously slowly — particularly when I am behind them and late for an appointment.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I tried, without success, to install a microwave in the back by connecting it to a light socket, for when I got peckish on long journeys. I thought it was such a clever idea. It wasn't as clever as I thought. I found, to my horror, that it drained the battery. Immediately. It wasn't a very memorable microwave dinner either.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

I'm ashamed to say I was done for speeding in the late 1970s and once for double parking. I have been as good as gold since.

What do you listen to in the car?

You will expect me to say Radio 1. Actually, I flick round the channels to see what the rivals are up to. I also indulge my taste in obscure New Age and folk musicians nobody has heard of, like Yanni and John Tesh.

If you were Transport Secretary, what is the first thing you would do?

If you have a caravan, beware. They should all have reversing lights, I would only permit them to travel in non-peak hours, and I would also slap an extra tax on them. Not that I have got anything against caravanners! I would also make everyone retake their driving test every 10 years.

What is your most hated ad?

The Take your Breath Away one. It does. It leaves me gasping for air because it is so bad.

PETER TREVNOR

The Wright stuff: the presenter with his family Volvo

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C2 Cpe Midnight blue, grey hide [illegible]
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300CE 24V 90 H. Auto Sportline. 19,000 miles Immac. Blue/Blk. Grey hide. FMBSH. Full spec. ABS.c/c.SRB.CD.e/heat sts.air. £27,700. 01727 831737

300 CE 1989 G Smoke Silver. cream hide. air con FMBSH alarm. 69K, £20,750 0181 464 7083(h) 01689 822 677(o)

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300 CE 1992. almandine/cream leather. drivers air bag. 10 CD. FMBSH. 22,000 mls. 15 mos MB warranty. 8 hole alloys. £29,500. 01482 801478.

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300 CE 90G. Auto. 54K. Black lthr. fmbsh. immac. e/s. h/sts. alloys. £19,995 0181 906 2314.

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300SL 88F. Blue blk/blk hide. rear seat. cruise. htd seats. otg. 26,000mls. mint. £26,995. Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555.

300SL (95) White. black hide. rear seat. air conditioning. 33,000 miles. FSH. exceptional. £19,950. Tel: 01772 613114 (t)

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320TE 93K. Silver/grey cloth. a/c. 8 hole alloys. walnut. hiww. 1 owner. 26K. £32,995. Bramshaw 01202 396342.

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300TE Auto. '91J. Pearl Blue/Sport Cloth. Walnut. Cruise. 8 Hole Alloys. Alm etc. FMBSH. 1 family owner. 50k mls. £20,000. 01494 663252

350 SL auto. 1979. ivory. Soft (new) and hard tops. alloys. 110K mls. £9,750. 01203 862261 W. 01203 715201 E

380 SEL 1984 Green met. 85K mls. 2 Owners. A/C. S/roof. Immac cond. FSH. Alloys. £6,800 ono. 014256 20877.

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C 180 Elegance Auto. M reg 94. 6000 Miles. Smoke silver/ cream. sra ortho seat. Merc alarm. radio. £20,950. Tel: 01844 343168.

C280 95M. Elegant. 4,000 mls. Auto. Stereo. Alarm. 1 prvt owner. OTG. Immac. £30,950. 0161 973 2625/ 0831 878329

E 320 CABRIOLET. 14K. Sept 93. L Reg. Signal Red. Cream leather. Almost full spec. £45,000. Tel: 0171 371 6750.

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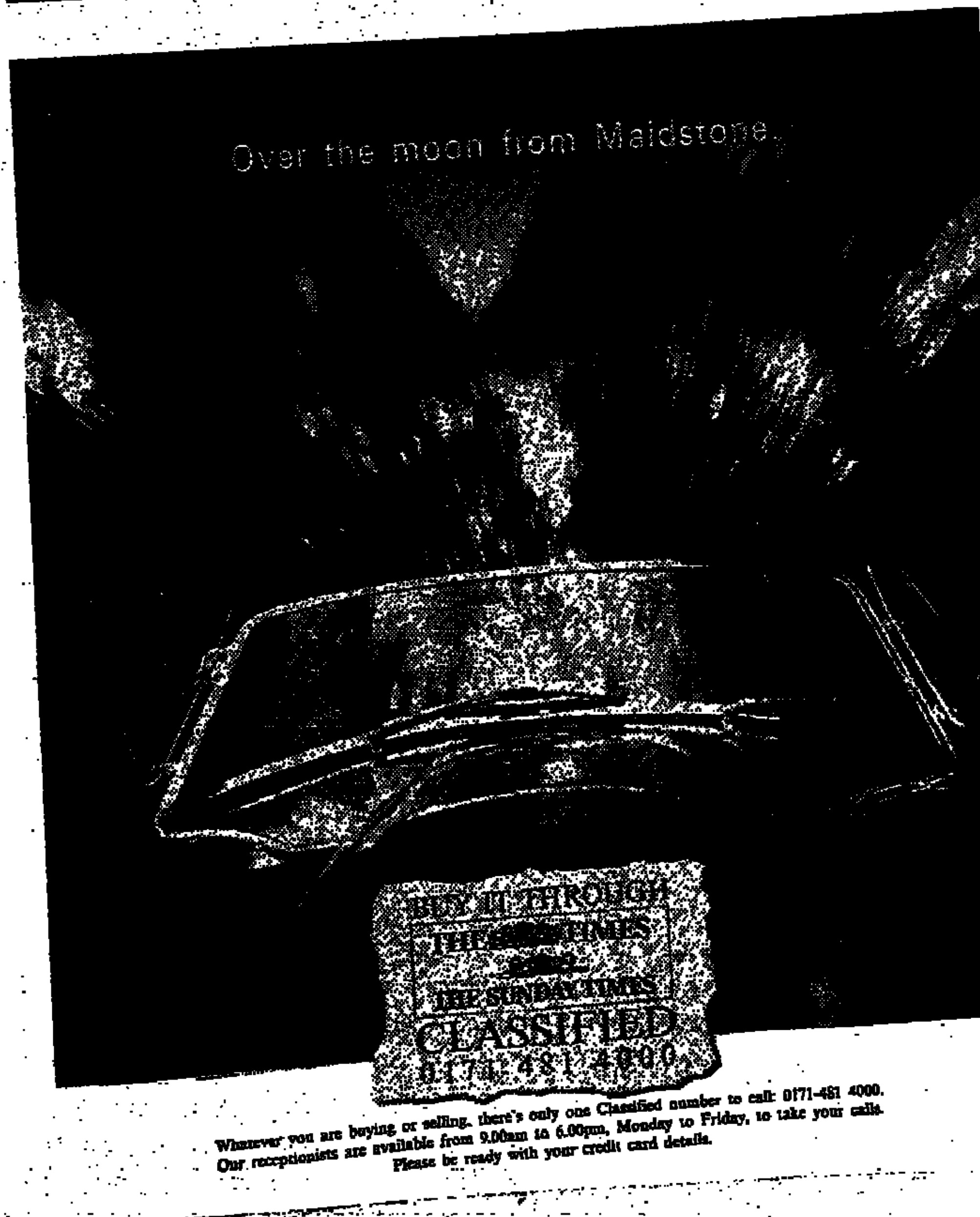
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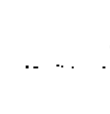

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On the road in a 16-ton buggy

Helen Mound finds an unlikely trucking team: a mother and her 14-month-old daughter

TONY WHITE

Like mother. like daughter: Julia Lennon started travelling young, and baby Abigail is already a seasoned trucker. "She loves it," says her mother

It's 7am and the alarm clock has just woken trucker Julia Lennon, but it isn't time for a bacon buttie and a giant mug of sweet tea before hitting the road in her 16-ton Mercedes-Benz truck ... it's breakfast-time for Abigail. her 14-month-old daughter.

A few wails and giggles later, Abigail is content and Julia can get on with her day's work as driver and joint-director of Moving Entertainment, her own transport firm that works for some of Britain's most famous television shows. Today's job is with TV stars, The Gladiators.

"I got the travelling bug from my dad," says Julia, 38. "He took me up and down the countryside on jobs when I was little. Immediately after my 17th birthday I got my driving licence and applied for van driving jobs.

"I got back on the road when Abigail was four months old and she's been a part of my working day ever since. She's much better off with me than left with a childminder."

Yet Julia is not really supposed to exist. Trucking is for men, beefy characters with baseball caps, CB radios, jeans that don't fit and deep voices, and big mugs of undrinkable tea that looks more like varnish. Julia, though, has regularly been the only girl in a 50-man crew on month-long tours after 17 years' experience as a truck driver, travelling as far as Russia and Poland. Things weren't so pleasant in 1977 when she got her Heavy Goods Vehicle licence and began applying for driving jobs. "I was either laughed at or had the phone slammed down on me. You need lots of stamina, and as a lady trucker you need to be able to ignore sexist remarks or be prepared to put up a fight."

She first encountered trouble when she was 21 and working as a receptionist for a truck rental company. "The only way for me to get work with trucks was to start in administration, and eventually I was asked to drive. Surprisingly, it was the female staff who caused the problem. They thought my place was in the office.

"For a while, I worked for a provincial firm and all the drivers were sheltered country-boys. They gave me a hard time for being a Londoner and a woman."

Julia recalled having her truck tampered with, being sent to Coventry and constantly being mocked and insulted by her male colleagues.

She soon learned how to repair the old truck she was given, as it broke down regularly. Her only comfort was occasionally having her husband, Chris, around. She met him on the road 10 years ago.

"It's funny. I spent part of my teens in the Isle of Wight and I always knew I would travel for a living. When we moved back to London, I'd decided I was going to be a model. I even went to modelling school. I couldn't have ended up further away from that profession."

Her first big tour was with Queen and she's delivered equipment for top names such as Fleetwood Mac, Chris de Burgh and Wet, Wet, Wet. She's seen plenty of excitement: "I was one of the drivers that took Bon Jovi to Russia for the first heavy metal show in Moscow."

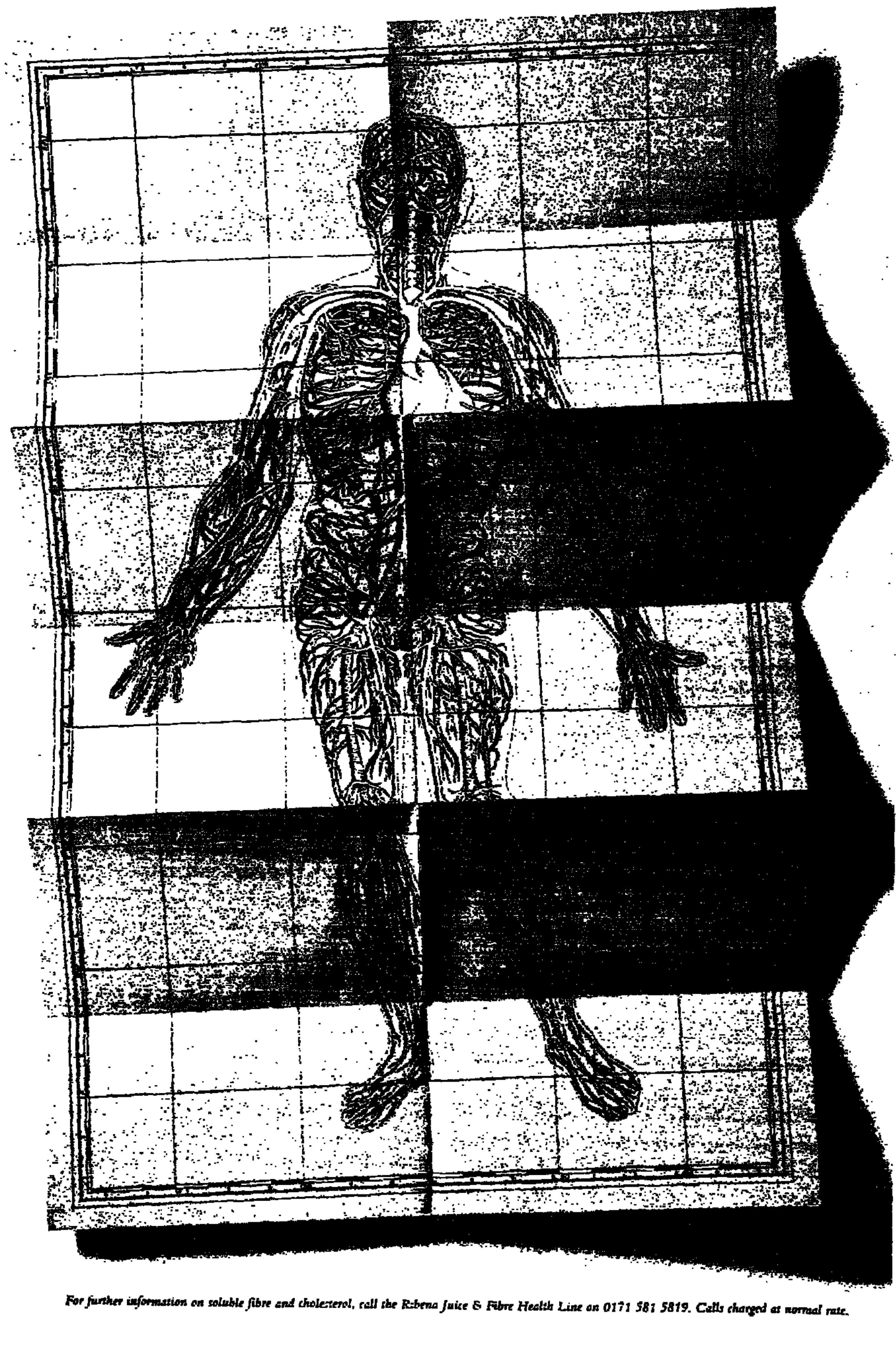
She also gets the chance to handle some of the equipment she delivers. "I've climbed the cheese-wire ladders above a stage and done spotlights for some concerts.

Once I had to follow Marti Pellow, from Wet, Wet, Wet, with a spot and he kept jumping about. I had a terrible time keeping up with him.

"I have also cooked by the side of the road and slept in the bunk of my cab, but as a rule rock and roll crews are fairly spoiled. I remember doing a double-drive from Stockholm to Paris for Alice Cooper — one driver sleeps while the other drives — and the wheels kept turning for 26 hours. I flew Club Class with another driver, and on the return flight from Paris, a passenger told us we were in the wrong place and to move along. I suppose we did look out of place!"

Today, Julia's life is quieter. "I don't go on long trips, although I do travel overnight occasionally. I avoid taking Abigail on jobs between 9pm and 7am, but otherwise she travels with me. Her baby seat fits in the bunk; she can see everything.

"I don't miss doing long-haul jobs. Women still have to scurry in and out of men's toilets in Europe because there are few ladies' facilities. We have to ask for a single cabin on cross-Channel ferries. A lot of firms have woken up to the value of female drivers, but there's still a breed of 'old boys' that make it difficult."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DR DASHBOARD

Follow the green route for 4x4s

Q After all the gibes that 4x4 drivers never so much as get their wheels dirty by going off-road, why all the fuss that people are driving in the countryside on ground their vehicles were designed for?

A Because of the mess they leave behind. Some of the tracks have been there for hundreds of years and are enjoyed by keen ramblers and families out on picnics. Now some tracks are little more than a quagmire.

Q Surely vehicles cannot do that much damage, particularly on paths used by horses?

A They do, particularly after rain or snow when the huge tyres can churn a pleasant path into a mudbath. The deep gouges can scar a path for years. The vehicle's high sides catch and break tree branches and then there is the noise and engine fumes, which nobody enjoys. People who wanted to hear and smell big vehicles could sit by a motorway for fun, instead of trying to ramble quietly down a country lane.

Q So does that mean that after investing all that money on a 4x4, we have to stick to the roads?

A No. There are plenty of areas where off-roaders are welcomed, you just have to find out where they are. There are lots of schools around the country that have special tracks and manufacturers run outings. Land Rover, for example, has a 25-acre jungle track where £152 buys a day's tuition and access to the huge course and it is putting together package holidays for off-road enthusiasts so they can enjoy their machines but leave the countryside intact. Talk to your dealer, or check one of the specialist 4x4 magazines where good courses are often advertised.

Q Is there anything we can do to enjoy off-road driving but protect the environment?

A Absolutely. It seems obvious to say you should take care, but take care. First, check you have right of way, because not all green lanes offer access to cars, and make sure you follow the simple rules of the countryside, such as always shutting gates behind you and taking care when passing horses or livestock. Also, keep your speed down, to cut noise and exhaust emissions. Be extra careful in spring and early summer, when animals rear their young and don't particularly want to be disturbed by some hulking great machine roaring past the end of their nests and burrows.

Q Perhaps it would be better to get off the track and on to open fields then?

A Don't think so. Keep to the track and don't be tempted to start wandering about in fields because you could damage valuable crops or disturb animals. And forget all those exotic images of wind-in-the-hair driving about leaving lovely tyre marks on your local beach. Driving on a beach without permission is a criminal offence, as it is on dunes, open moorland, commons, parks and farmland. So be sure before you engage low gear and set off ... otherwise you could be driving to jail without passing go.

Q Is that all we need to know to stay out of trouble?

A Not entirely. Toyota says you should remember the four "Ws" whenever you go off road: weather (don't go out when there has been heavy rain or snow because it will ruin the track); weight (4x4s are heavy, so check the track and bridges can take the best part of two tonnes); width (4x4s can be 6ft wide, so check you can pass without damage to shrubs and trees); and winches (only to be used in emergencies).

Q After that long list, everything should be perfect for a weekend run on rugged terrain.

A Almost. Are you able to drive off-road? It is one thing cruising city streets but quite another to handle a big machine once it starts to dive into mud, water and sand.

Q Surely it can't be that difficult?

A It isn't until the first time the wheels spin and you discover you are trapped in 2ft of dirt, wearing cashmere trousers and Italian loafers. Get training on tackling rough terrain, buy the right gear, such as the mandatory green wellies, and prepare to get that neat paintwork dirty for once ... very dirty.

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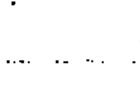

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CHOICE

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FILMS

Geoff Brown

BEFORE SUNRISE (15): A mainstream film consisting largely of two people walking and talking is a risky enterprise, but Richard Linklater almost meets the challenge in this lovely chamber piece set in Vienna. A wandering American, Ethan Hawke, invites a French student, Julie Delpy, to join him exploring the city and, of course, each other. Nothing in Linklater's past portraits of American youth, *Slacker* and *Dazed and Confused*, suggested he could delve deep into characters and make them more than mouthpieces for off-beat remarks. Yet, helped by Hawke and Delpy's natural performances, he does so with ease, crafting a film as humane and tender as they come in this blood-spattered age.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574).

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): Roman Polanski buckles down to the task of adapting Ariel Dorfman's play about a torture victim in South America subjecting her possible torturer to a mock trial. Sigourney Weaver, forever tense, is commanding as the vengeful Paulina. As the targeted doctor, Ben Kingsley mixes arrogance, reason and guile, while Stuart Wilson grows in strength as the cautious husband. But without the electricity of a live performance or a bolder, more personal, directorial approach, Dorfman's material remains rigid and humourless: a debate with clever speeches, not a drama with people.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891): **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722): **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366).

● *More films, page 6.*

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE: Could Bernard Hill be our theatre's most neglected actor? Certainly, he brings inarticulate rage, grief, menace and power to the role of Arthur Miller's longshoreman, in love with his niece and not quite realising it. With Charlotte Cornwell and Joseph Fiennes in support, David Thacker's revival should keep you on tenterhooks.
Strand, Aldwych, London WC2 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Tues to Sat, 7.45pm; matinées: Thur and Sat, 2pm; Sun, 3pm.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Philip Franks's production might be more mindful of T.S. Eliot's remark that Webster "saw the skull beneath the skin". But his less than horrifying production still offers the superb Juliet Stevenson — exuding joy and pain — displaying courage in adversity, plus a love of risk ignored by most actresses playing the doomed duchess.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-369 1746). Evenings: Tues to Sat, 7.30pm: matinées: Wed and Sat, 3pm.

● *More theatre, page 6.*

DANCE

John Percival

ROYAL BALLET: Three new productions have joined the Covent Garden repertoire. Frederick Ashland's *Rhapsody*, to Rachmaninov's Variations on a theme of Paganini, is revived with new designs by Patrick Caulfield. On the same bill is a work created for the Royal Ballet by William Forsythe, together with the British premiere of his *Steptext*. These works should suit the company, even if the remaining piece on the programme, Glen Tetley's *La Ronde*, to music by Erich Korngold, was thought less convincing when first given here in 1993.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Thur 27, 7.30pm; Sat 29, 2pm and 7pm; May 8, 10, 12, 7.30pm. ♿

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The choreographer Mauro Bigonzetti has created another work for the company, following the success of his *X.N.Tricities* last year. *Symphonic Dances*, to Rachmaninov's music, premieres at Crewe in a programme also including *Square Dance*, Balanchine's virtuoso reinterpretation of American tradition into classicism (music by Vivaldi and Corelli), and a revival of David Lichine's comedy, *Graduation Ball*, to a score drawn from Johann Strauss.
Lyceum Theatre, Crewe ♿ (01270 537333). Tues 25, 7.30pm; Wed 26, 2pm and 7.30pm; **Forum 28**, Barrow-in-Furness (01229 820000). Fri 28, 7.30pm, Sat 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; then at **Assembly Hall**, Tunbridge Wells (01892 530613), May 2 and 3; **Queens Theatre**, Barnstaple ♿ (01271 24242), May 4 and 6; **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge ♿ (01223 357851), May 15 and 16.

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

OPEN HOUSE: A festive spirit prevails at Kettle's Yard in Cambridge, celebrating the centenary of its founder Jim Ede. He restored the old house, built up the collection of modern masters and then gave it all to the university. Since his death, the temporary exhibition space has been extended. It now houses a choice selection of the work by Hepworth, Nicholson, Brancusi and other artists whom Ede befriended in the 1920s. They look very handsome there, and a group of invited artists have invaded the house with their responses to the bleached spaces. Some, like Richard Deacon, Tim Head and Richard Wentworth, are openly irreverent. Others, including Michael Craig-Martin, transform their rooms. But Catherine Yass pays open homage to a Hepworth sculpture, and enhances the pleasure which Ede's collection continues to provide.
Kettle's Yard, Kettle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124), until May 8.

Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy explore the city of Vienna, and each other, in Richard Linklater's tender film, *Before Sunrise*

WILLEM DE KOONING: Now a victim of Alzheimer's disease, de Kooning is the last survivor from the great age of postwar American painting. With Jackson Pollock, he epitomised New York art's ability to dominate the international stage. The Tate Gallery is now hosting a grand retrospective of de Kooning's career. Spanning half a century, it shows the Dutch-born painter starting as a hesitant, surprisingly linear artist. Only in the late 1940s does he develop the flamboyant love of paint which typifies his mature work. De Kooning's series of *Woman* paintings could hardly be more rumbustious, and his landscapes are often charged with a wild vitality. The energy comes to a climax in 1977, but the subsequent years witness a sad, slow decline.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000), until May 7. ♿

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

CATCHING THE EYE: Richard Bird, one of the most prominent image-makers of the 1970s and 1980s, died in 1993 at the age of 44. Much of his most memorable work was for the National Theatre. He designed many of the theatre's most striking posters and programmes, in a forceful but economical graphic style with bold use of simple forms against more complex and highly coloured backgrounds. This retrospective covers the whole range of his work.
National Theatre, Lobby Galleries, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-633 0880) Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm, until May 6. ♿

STAMPS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: It is not generally realised in Britain that the American Civil War and its divisions were clearly reflected in the still-developing postal services of the United States. United no longer, the rival governments issued their own stamps; while the Union continued as before, the Confederate Government instituted its own independent post office with its own stamps — some printed in London in 1862 by De La Rue and imported in defiance of the Union blockades. Before the Confederacy was set up, individual postmasters issued their own provisional stamps, generously represented in this show drawn from the British Library's philatelic collections, along with such Union specials as the grey-black images of Lincoln in 1866 after his assassination.
British Library Exhibition Galleries, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-412 7111). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Sep 22.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA: The Great Pavarotti Show is unmissable at two levels. First, simply as a happening: he is a star; he is here, and his voice and personality are unique. But he is also nearly 60, and for opera-buffs there is the fascination of seeing how he gets through one of the most testing tenor roles in the repertory: the fact that you can scarcely see the joins bears witness to a triumph of sheer technique. But it is not just a one-man show. Lillian Watson's pageboy reminds you why the whole travesty tradition was so popular: she looks (and sounds) scrumptious. Deborah Voigt is the spirited heroine, and Sir Edward Downes proves the wisest of ringmasters in the pit.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Fri 28, 7.30pm. ♿

COSI FAN TUTTE: One of English National Opera's happiest offerings. Nicolette Molnár's production is funny without being vulgar, and Nicholas Kok conducts with the lightest of touches. The young cast is led by Rita Cullis's brilliantly sung Fiordiligi — if she changed her name to Rita Coglioni she would probably have a huge international career — and Charles Workman's easy Ferrando. Sara Fulgoni, who by chance does have an Italian name, is the saucy Dorabella. The evening zips along — unpretentious, fresh, a really fun evening out.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 26, Fri 28, 7.30pm. ♿

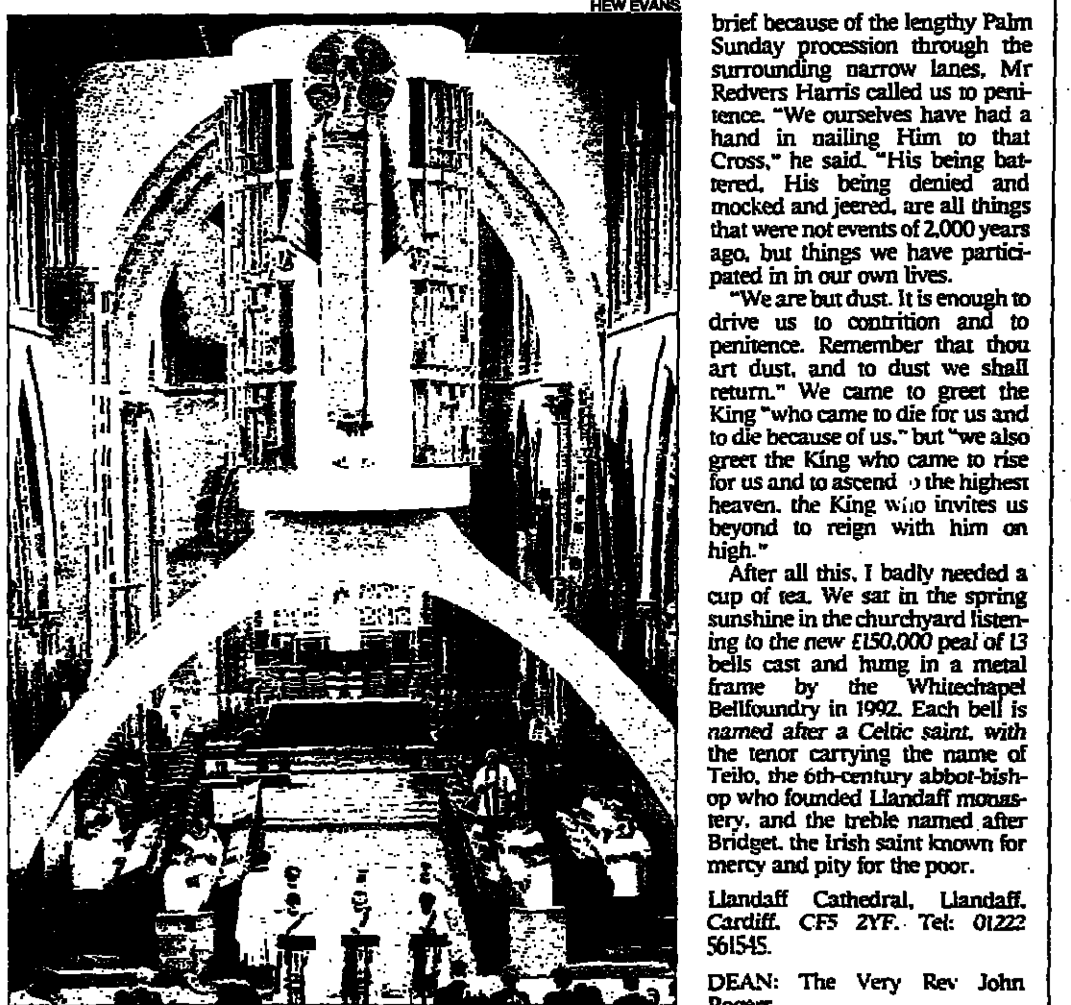
Ruth Gledhill worshipped at Llandaff Cathedral and parish church in Cardiff

AT YOUR SERVICE

UNLIKE many cathedrals, whose exterior beauty is little changed over the centuries but is sullied by the hideous modern developments which surround them, Llandaff Cathedral has been repeatedly damaged and restored but remains exquisite and stands in a perfect setting. The cathedral barely survived the Dissolution and the Second World War. It lost its endowments in the Tudor period, and Oliver Cromwell, after the Reformation, set up an ale house and post office inside it, and used the font as a pig trough. One tower collapsed in 18th-century storms, and, in 1717, it was described in a survey as "the poor desolate church of Llandaff."

It is inside that, like so many historic buildings, Llandaff bears the marks of its troubles and triumphs in the shape of the work that ensued. Where once a visitor's gaze might on entry have been drawn to a stone screen, or instantly have passed the perpendicular arches of the nave to the sanctuary and high altar beyond, it is now arrested by the *Majestas*, an aluminium sculpture by Sir Jacob Epstein, which has aroused controversy since it was placed in the cathedral on top of its reinforced concrete pulpitum in 1957. "A lot of people don't like it and a lot of people do. There is no halfway house," said the Dean, the Very Rev John Rogers. "Some people like the sculpture but they don't like the pulpitum, the supporting structure." This was my own response. In most medieval churches, the pulpitum is a stone screen which divides the monks' quire from the rest of the building. Here it is a reinforced concrete arch that would look better at Spaghetti Junction than amid medieval stone, albeit beneath a 20th-century hardwood, panelled ceiling. The sculpture itself is startling. It stands at the front of a cylindrical concrete organ case which is decorated by gilded figures which were on the chapter stalls before the cathedral was devastated by a landmine in 1941.

Our celebrant was the Rev Jonathan Redvers Harris who, as succentor, is in charge of the music and is assistant curate of the parish. He is deputy to the precentor, Canon Mervyn Davies, who is a parish priest elsewhere. Because Llandaff is both parish church and cathedral, it has two of everything. For our service the voluntary cathedral parish choir sang, as they do twice every Sunday and some weekdays. During termtimes, the cathedral enjoys the luxury of 20 choristers from the Choir School. Mr Redvers Harris was assisted by the Rev Nicholas Court, priest vicar of the cathedral.



HEW EVANS

Sir Jacob Epstein's sculpture, *Majestas*, on a concrete pulpitum

Because the Church in Wales was disestablished and partly disendowed in 1920, cathedrals such as Llandaff no longer have the luxury of a large income from investments and depend on the collection plate. The parish, with 700 on the electoral roll, effectively pays for the cathedral, which costs £220,000 a year to run. "It is through the generosity of the people that we are flourishing now," said the Dean, who doubles up as vicar, and chairs both the cathedral chapter of 14 canons which runs the cathedral and the parochial church council, which runs the parish. To confuse matters further, all the canons are parish priests elsewhere. Before the war the cathedral had a dean and a vicar, and a legacy from those days is the tradition of dual services. Our parish eucharist was followed by the cathedral's own sung eucharist.

In our Old Testament reading, from Zechariah, we heard: "As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your captives free from the waterless pit." Our Gospel reading, from Matthew, contained one of the most inexplicable of all Bible texts, when Christ on the Cross cries out *Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani*, or: "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?" In his sermon, which was necessarily brief because of the lengthy Palm Sunday procession through the surrounding narrow lanes, Mr Redvers Harris called us to penitence. "We ourselves have had a hand in nailing Him to that Cross," he said. "His being battered, His being denied and mocked and jeered, are all things that were not events of 2,000 years ago, but things we have participated in in our own lives.

"We are but dust. It is enough to drive us to contrition and to penitence. Remember that thou art dust, and to dust we shall return." We came to greet the King "who came to die for us and to die because of us," but "we also greet the King who came to rise for us and to ascend to the highest heaven, the King who invites us beyond to reign with him on high."

After all this, I badly needed a cup of tea. We sat in the spring sunshine in the churchyard listening to the new £150,000 peal of 13 bells cast and hung in a metal frame by the Whitechapel Bellfoundry in 1992. Each bell is named after a Celtic saint, with the tenor carrying the name of Teilo, the 6th-century abbot-bishop who founded Llandaff monastery, and the treble named after Bridget, the Irish saint known for mercy and pity for the poor.

Llandaff Cathedral, Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YF. Tel: 01222 561545.

DEAN: The Very Rev John Rogers.

ARCHITECTURE: Founded 14 centuries ago on the River Taff, today's elegant building is late-13th century, altered over the centuries by repeated but essential restorations. ★★★★

SERMON: *Brief homily on the meaning of the Cross today.* ★★★

LITURGY: Superbly executed liturgy from Church in Wales *Book of Common Prayer*. ★★★★

MUSIC: Thunderous organ and voluntary parish choir, which led us in traditional hymns. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee, tea and plain biscuits in Prebendal House. ★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: As the cathedral has been so often battered down and then rebuilt, worship here is at once chastening and uplifting. ★★★★★

★ stars are awarded to a maximum of five.

CABARET/JAZZ

Clive Davis

BUDDY GRECO/TUCK AND PATTI: Just as Tony Bennett has suddenly come back into fashion after years on the twin-set, middle-of-the-road circuit, so Buddy Greco is enjoying a new burst of popularity by returning to basics as a jazz-inspired pianist and singer. His previous run at the Green Room turned into something of a hipster's convention by all accounts. When Tuck and Patti were last in town Cyndi Lauper leapt on to the stage of the Jazz Café for an impromptu duet with Patti Cathcart in *Time After Time*. Still something of a cult act, Cathcart and Tuck Andress are an unclassifiable pop/soul/jazz double-act who initially took their inspiration from Ella Fitzgerald's albums with guitarist Joe Pass.
Greco: **Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), Tue 25 to Sat, May 13 (no performances Sun or Mon), 9.15pm.
Tuck and Patti: **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Thur 27, 7.45pm. ♿

GEORGE GRUNTZ: As a change from the usual programme of American and Latin stars, Euro-jazz comes to Ronnie Scott's this week in the shape of the George Gruntz Concert Jazz Orchestra. Rarely spotted in this country, Gruntz is a scholarly pianist and composer from Switzerland, whose compositions have included jazzed-up suites and oratorios. It was his band that performed the vintage Gil Evans settings on Miles Davis's valedictory album, recorded at the Montreux Festival in 1991.
Ronnie Scott's, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 24 to Sat 29, support set from 9.30pm.

[illegible]

Richard Morrison

FAURE FESTIVAL: Gabriel Fauré, he of the Requiem, was born 150 years ago, and the resourceful and talented pianist Kathryn Stott has organised a superb fortnight-long festival in his honour in Manchester. She features in many of the concerts, including Monday's opener (Free Trade Hall, 7.30pm). Others taking part include Yo-Yo Ma, the BBC Philharmonic, the Nash Ensemble, Della Jones and the Labèque sisters. Fauré's music is put in the context of his contemporaries and compatriots, including Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Ravel, and Franck.
Free Trade Hall and **Royal Northern College of Music**, Manchester (0161-273 4504), Apr 24 to May 6.

PART WORK: In London, another festival focuses on a composer. *Arvo Pärt: Emerging Light* presents music by the minimalist and intensely mystic Estonian, including several recent works new to this country. Juxtaposed with Pärt's music are pieces by other contemporary composers from the Baltic states, including the much-rated young Estonian, former rock musician Erkki-Sven Tüür. Note, particularly, the concerts by the stunning Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (May 4, 5), which sings music by Estonia's "Vaughan Williams", Veljo Tormis, who has based his own music on Estonia's almost extinct folk song tradition.
South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Apr 22 to May 12. ♿

ROCK

David Sinclair

HOLE: Say of her what you will, Courtney Love has weathered storms that would have sunk all but the most resilient of performers in the year since the deaths of her husband, Kurt Cobain, and Hole's previous bass player, Kristen Pfaff. Yet Love and her band Hole are currently enjoying renewed critical acclaim and their biggest hits so far with the harrowing single, *Doll Parts*, and the re-released album *Live Through This*.
Virgin Megastore, Oxford Street, London WC1 (0171-631 1234), Apr 26, short set at 6pm followed by album signing; free; **Wolverhampton Civic Hall** ♿ (01902 312030), Apr 27; **Octagon Centre**, Sheffield ♿ (0114 2753300), Apr 29; **Manchester Academy** ♿ (0161-832 1111), Apr 30: **Barrowlands**, Glasgow (0141-552 4601), May 1; **Rock City**, Nottingham (01602 483456), May 3; **Brixton Academy**, London SW9 ♿ (0171-924 9999), May 4; **Shepherds Bush Empire**, London W12 (0181-740 7474), May 10.

LITTLE AXE: The band, led by veteran session guitarist Skip McDonald, has made a sizeable splash this year with their debut album, *The House That Wolf Built*. Their music is a strange concoction — a mixture of delta roots music with spacey wedges of reggae and hip hop beats. Always a good groove but don't expect any choruses or tunes.
Leadmill, Sheffield ♿ (0114 2754500), Apr 24; **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut**, Glasgow (0141-221 5279), Apr 25; **Sankey's Soap**, Manchester (0161-237 5606), Apr 26; **Bottom Line**, London W12 ♿ (0181-740 1304), Apr 28; **Mosley Dance Centre**, Birmingham (0121-449 0779), Apr 29; **Trinity Centre**, Bristol (0117 9554318), Apr 30.

[illegible]

LONDON

Take Your Parents on a Bike Ride: Bring your own cycles or hire them.
Lee Valley Cycle Circuit, Temple Mills Lane, E15 (0181-534 6085). Today from 8am-7pm. Adults £1.70 (plus £4 to hire bike), children 90p (plus £3 to hire).

Shadow Puppets and Illusions in *Figgie Hobbin*, a show based on Charles Causley's poems. Suitable for age 6 and over.
Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 (0181-543 4888). Today, 2pm and 5pm. Tickets £5.

1995 Festival of Model Tramways: Watch modelling demonstrations and see working models in action.
Kew Bridge Steam Museum, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford (0181-568 4757). Today and tomorrow, 11am. Adults £3.25, children £1.80. ♿

BEDFORDSHIRE

Maxi the Clown Show: Tractor, trailer and pony rides, and children's farm.
Woodside Farm, Mancroft Road, Slip End, Luton (01582 841044). Today, noon. Adults £1.60, children £1.20.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Bekonscot: "The oldest model village in the world" where time has stood still for 60 years.
Warwick Road, Beaconsfield (01494 672919). Today, tomorrow and daily until October, from 10am-5pm. Adults £3, children £1.50. ♿

COUNTY DURHAM

Lambing Time: Watch pet lambs being bottle-fed and see the recently hatched chicks.
Hall Hill Farm, Lanchester, Durham (01388 730300). Tomorrow, 11am. Adults £2.75, children £1.50. Under-3s free. Family ticket (two adults and two children) £7. ♿

CUMBRIA

Story-telling, music and craft workshops at the North Pennines Spring Festival.
Various locations in the North Pennines. Tel: 01434 381806. Today until May 8. Times and prices vary.

HERTFORDSHIRE

The Home Front: Find out what it was like to live through the Second World War.
The Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, St Albans (01727 819340). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; every day until July 31. Admission free. ♿

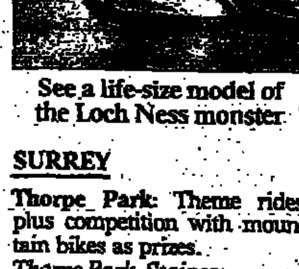
OXFORDSHIRE

Peter Pan: With Toyah Wilcox and Frank Finlay wreaking magic and chaos on stage.
Apollo Theatre, George Street, Oxford (01865 244544). Tues 25 to Sat 29. Times vary. Adults and children from £5. ♿

Fun Fair: South Park, Oxford. (No telephone number). Today, 2pm.

SCOTLAND

The Official Loch Ness Monster Exhibition: Look at the models which suggest it really *does* exist.
Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire (01456 450573). Today and tomorrow, 9.30am (and daily). Adults £4, children £2.50, under-7s free. ♿



See a life-size model of the Loch Ness monster

SURREY

Thorpe Park: Theme rides plus competition with mountain bikes as prizes.
Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey (01932 562633). Open daily, 10am (competition runs until May 22). Adults £13.25, children £11.25, family ticket £40. Children under one metre free. ♿

WALES

Let off steam at the Energy Zone Activity Park; also underground tours of the mine.
Rhondda Heritage Park, Lewis Merthyr, Coedcae Road, Trehafod (01443 682036): Open daily, 10am-4.30pm. Adults £4.95, children £4.25. ♿

JANE BIDDER

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continued from page 1

both ways: girls get a chance to find a career that might suit them, and male-dominated industries in particular get a chance to encourage girls who might not normally consider anything other than jobs women have traditionally done. For instance, a representative body for the engineering industry, the Engineering Training Authority (EnTra) has seized on Take Your Daughters To Work Day as an opportunity to bolster the number of female engineering workers — which has dropped by a third since 1990. It has asked the 20,000 manufacturing plants it represents — which together employ 1.8 million people — to encourage as many of their workers as possible to bring their daughters to work.

Greg Parston, one of the trustees of Our Daughters, says: "We all have a responsibility to raise our consciousness about what all children can do." But he admits the Day has its critics. People have written to the trustees arguing that the day is sexist. What about the boys, the letters ask.

Yet boys and girls are treated differently every day. It is well known that teachers pay more attention to boys because they tend to be more demanding. Boys are more likely to shout "Me first!" and get to the head of the queue for the computer or the lathe than girls. Surely, if girls are given priority for just one day out of the year, boys will stand aside.

The Bishop of Wakefield with his daughter, Kay, who says: "Being a bishop is an interesting job — it is not just about going to church."

Name: Kay McCulloch
Age: 19
Taken to work by: The Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch

WE MET the archdeacon and my dad's chaplain for morning prayers at about 7.30am. We had breakfast and then they had a discussion about appointments in the diocese. Dad got about 40 letters and had replied to most of them before an interview on the new Marriage Act for the radio at 11am.

As the Chairman of the Church of England Communications he also had to go through the day's newspaper cuttings. We had lunch with a priest and his wife.

At 2.30pm dad and I arrived at St Mary's school. In the playground, all the children rushed over to us and sent us flying. The teachers were pleased that the children gave me a bunch of daffodils — until they realised that they'd been picked from the school's special flower bed. We then went on to the hospice, where dad talked to patients.

We then visited the National Coal Mining Museum because dad has been supporting the miners. After supper dad consecrated a new church in Wakefield. We went home at about 10.30pm.

Being a bishop is an interesting job as it has so many sides to it — it's not just about going to church. It also involves a great deal of pastoral work — visiting and talking to a vast variety of people.

Philippa Clarke and father

Name: Philippa Clarke
Age: 17
Taken to work by: Rear-Admiral John Clarke, Flag Officer Training and Recruiting

MY father and I were driven to work at 8am. It was straight down to work for dad. His out-tray contained nothing, whereas his in-tray seemed to be overflowing.

At about 9am people started to arrive in the office. They all sat down around the conference table and discussed recruiting and training matters.

The next thing we did was to go over to *HMS Sultan* as my father was attending a briefing. When we got back to the office, dad's in-tray was as full as it had been first thing in the morning. I decided to leave dad to his work.

The main thing I learnt is why dad is always so tired. He works too hard.

Jonathan Dimbleby

Daughter Kitty

Name: Kitty Dimbleby
Age: 16
Taken to work by: Jonathan Dimbleby, broadcaster

I ARRIVED at Broadcasting House to watch my father do the last three minutes of his hectic live Radio 4 show, *Any Answers*. Then we were off in a chauffeur-driven car to the LWT studios where I was introduced to his co-workers, one of whom was playing football "to relieve stress", he said. Last week the football went through a window.

The next day's interview with the Foreign Secretary was discussed and points put forward, while an eye was kept on the Ceefax news, should any political change occur to affect the programme.

At 3.45pm there was the highly important job of watching the Grand National. My father bet on Party Politics, which came second. After this there was a lull in activity while my father began to finalise the interview. At 8pm everyone sat down to watch . . . the National Lottery. After that dad and I returned home — me to bed, but dad to stay up until midnight reading the Sunday papers.

Next morning we were in the studios by 9am. Dad was working on his introduction. There was a meeting to check the news and to "practise" the interview. By this point everyone was getting nervous. My father went very quiet.

The audience came into the studio and were briefed. Dad talked to Douglas Hurd about the forthcoming interview while they both had their make up done. We were now only ten minutes away from the show. I could see and hear dad on the many television screens in front of us, and also talk to him at the flick of a switch.

Afterwards, in the hospitality room, I asked Douglas Hurd why politicians bothered to go on programmes such as these. He told me: "It's part of the basic instinct to communicate," and that sums up the whole point of political television. I realised the importance of my dad's job that had previously meant as much to me as the National Lottery. The experience made me more enthusiastic about his job, but I am also interested in writing fiction and reporting on social issues.

Name: Katie Waldegrave
Age: 14
Taken to work by: William Waldegrave, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

I WENT into my father's office at about 9am and I was shown around and introduced to all the people who work there. I was shown how the work is processed through to him.

Then we went on to visit an environmentally-friendly farm, and we were given a tour and lunch and the basic principles of the farm were explained to us.

We had to leave early because Sir Teddy Taylor wanted to ask about the Canadian fish and there was a special briefing session before, and dad went to answer questions in the Commons.

While I was waiting for him to speak I heard some of the Prime Minister's Question Time. I sat in the gallery. Then we went back to the office and I was shown some of the letters and invitations and so on that he receives.

I think dad has a good job. The best bits were going to the farm and watching the House of Commons.

I do not really have an ambition, although I would like to be a lawyer or an actress if I were good enough. I do not want to be a politician, and although I had an interesting day this opinion has not changed.

William and Katie Waldegrave, with a red box

Nick Ginty and Jo at a north London fire station

Name: Jo Ginty
Age: 17
Taken to work by: Nick Ginty, station officer, London Fire Brigade

I HAD to get up at 5.30am and travel by car with my dad to Kentish Town Fire Station, in north London, where he is the station officer. When we arrived he went for a jog with some of the other firefighters. At 9am they start work and it was time for roll call. I watched as my dad checked all their firegear and then they all had to check the fire engines. They test everything, especially the breathing apparatus (BA). After this we all went upstairs for a cup of tea. The firefighters talked about their days off and the BA exercise later that morning.

At 10am we went to a disused part of a local hospital where the exercise was going to take place. Before it started, the leading firefighter took me inside. There were lots of rooms. It was very dark and it was going to be filled with special smoke to make it more realistic.

When the drill started I stood to one side. I watched all the procedures they go through to do with communications and the checking in and out.

After two and a half hours it was all over. They had put out the "fire" and rescued the casualties — four dummies. We then went back to the station. After lunch my dad went out on a fire call and I had to wait for them to come back. They had a couple more calls and soon it was 6pm and the end of the day.

Dad had to pass over important information to the night watch officer in charge. I then helped him to take his fire gear off the fire engine.

It is a very worthwhile and rewarding job which I would like to do. The best bit was the excitement when the bells went and they all rushed out with the sirens going. I also enjoyed listening to the firefighters joking with each other. The worst bit was waiting around for them to come back from calls, the paperwork and getting up early.

Name: Jane Collingwood
Age: 15
Taken to work by: Judy Bennett, (Shula Hebden in *The Archers*)

AFTER I had sat and chatted to the members of the *Archers* cast with my mother in the "green room", the director of the episode, Alec Reid, strolled in and called everyone into the read-through.

This started at 11.15am and was a chance for the director to inform the actors of various script changes so that it could be timed in order to get a rough idea of the length of the episode. I sat with Jane Robinson, the radio production assistant. Then we all went into the studio to record the first scene and I went into the control cubicle with Alec Reid.

They have a very strict timing regime — two and a quarter hours to record six to eight scenes, and six days for 20 episodes. There is no time for mistakes.

Later I had to help Niall Gault with the spot effects. This involved pouring cups of tea, crunching gravel, crowd scenes, and clattering things in the kitchen.

Wanting to be an actress myself made the whole day more interesting as I could watch all the different techniques and characters brought out by each actor. I look forward to hopefully working there one day.

Jane Collingwood

Amy Browne with Primrose Cumming: "The lady that mummy was photographing was a famous writer"

Name: Amy Browne
Age: 8
Taken to work by: Jennifer Beeston, photojournalist

I WENT with my mummy all the way from London to Sussex to photograph a writer for a magazine called Saga. The first thing that we did was in the house with the lady sitting at her table pretending to do writing on her typewriter, but she wasn't really doing anything at all.

Mummy was very fussy, saying, "Can you move your chair a bit more to the left. Look up at me, that's perfect. Yes, that's brill," and then taking about 3,000 pictures.

Then afterwards we went into the garden, where I was holding a gold sun-reflector which changed the light on the lady's face from white to gold. She was pretending to do gardening, and pushing a wheelbarrow about.

The lady that mummy was photographing was a famous writer who used to write stories about ponies. Her name was Primrose. I thought it was good fun meeting her and I liked her a lot because she was very kind.

The next thing that we went to see were her two horses. She actually keeps them in a field quite a long way from her house. They were both brown. The bigger one was called David and the smaller one was called Magnolia. We put the reins on Magnolia, and when we were doing the pictures David tried to pull the reins off Magnolia and tried to bite Primrose for a carrot. I stayed with Magnolia because Primrose said that David was a bit clumsy and sometimes turns around and knocks you right over.

I think my mummy has a very good job because she seems to work very hard, although I don't really like the job very much. The best bit of the day was when we went to see the horses.

What I did not like at all was when my mummy started fussing me around saying, "Amy don't do that. Come and stand here", and then about five seconds later she says, "Go and stand over there", and gives me her heavy bag with lots and lots of her cameras in it to put in the boot of the car.

When I grow up I want to be an artist and a part-time writer because those are the things I like doing best.

Cover and inside:
Nick and Jo Ginty
by MARK HARRISON
Nigel and Kay McCulloch
by JOHN ANGERSON
William and Katie Waldegrave
by MARK HARRISON
Primrose Cumming and Amy Browne
by JENNIFER BEESTON

How to join in

Take Our Daughters to Work Day started three years ago in America. In Britain it is run by the charity Our Daughters. It is a national day designed to give girls aged between 11 and 15 first-hand experience of a broad range of workplaces. For further details contact Raina Sheridan, Project Co-ordinator, on 0171-402 5363.

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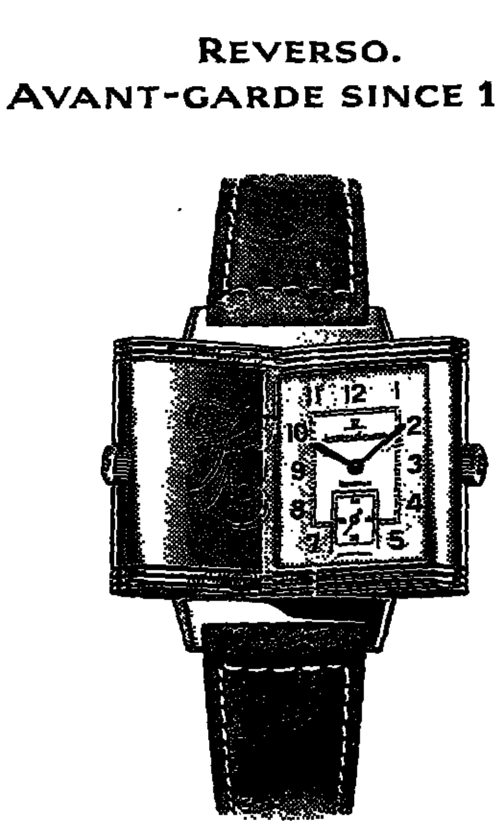

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Sun 23 Apr 3.45	**LAZAR BERMAN** International Piano Series. Beethoven Moonlight Sonata; Chopin Funeral March Sonata; Janácek Sonata 1.X.1905; Liszt Nuages Gris; La lugubre gondola; Dante Sonata. £15, £10, £6 Harrison/Parrott Ltd/*SBC/TransArt (UK) Ltd
Sun 23 Apr 7.30	**ITZHAK PERLMAN** (vln) Philharmonia Orchestra, Claus Peter Flor (cond), Yvonne Kenny, Alastair Miles, Philharmonia Chorus Smetana From Bohemia's Woods and Fields (Má Vlast); Dvorák Violin Concerto; Te Deum. £35, £30, £25, £18, £12 *Phil Ltd
Mon 24 Apr 7.30	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Jun-Ichi Hirokami (cond) Boris Belkin, Inger Dam-Jensen. Webern Im Sommerwind; Shostakovich Violin Concerto No.1; Mahler Symphony No.4. *RPO £15, £12, £9, £7, £5 Sponsor: NEC (UK) Ltd.
Tue 25 Apr 7.30	**FINNISH RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Jukka-Pekka Saraste (cond) Alexei Lubimov (pno) Sibelius Pohjola's Daughter; Bartók Piano Concerto No.3; Tchaikovsky Symphony No.6 (Pathétique) £25, £21, £16, £11, £6 Van Walsum Mgt Ltd/*SBC
Wed 26 Apr 7.30	**EVGENY KISSIN** (pno) Chopin Fantasy in F min; Mazurkas; Scherzo No.2; Franck Prelude, Choral & Fugue; Brahms Vars on Paganini theme Op.35. Harold Holt Ltd £30, £23, £17, £10, £5
Thu 27 Apr 5.45	**CHRISTOPHER BOWERS-BROADBENT** (organ) Pärt Trivium; Mein Weg; Pari Intervallo; Annum per annum; Tuur Spectrum (1989); Zemzaris Toccata; Kalejs Per aspera ad astra. *SBC £6 (unreserved)
Thu 27 Apr 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH. Franz Welser-Möst (cond) M Vengerov, G Lee. Pärt Sym No.3; Sibelius Vln Conc; Martin Ballade for T'bone; Shostakovich Sym No.6. *Lon Phil Spons: Pioneer High Fidelity. £30, £21, £17, £13, £8, £5
Fri 28 Apr 7.30	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH. James Loughran (cond) Janice Watson (sop) Beethoven Overture, Coriolan; Strauss Four Last Songs; Schubert *Lon Phil Symphony No.9 (Great) £10, £5

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 22 Apr 7.45	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Resident at the RFH. Roger Norrington (cond) Hilliard Ensemble. Pärt Collage sur BACH; Credo; Sym No.2; Perpetuum mobile; Litany (1st UK perf) £16, £12, £8, £6 *Lon Phil 6.30: Pre-conc talk, adm free by conc tkt.
Sun 23 Apr 3.00	**NATIONAL YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA OF GB** Torgny Hanson, Jim Parker* (conds) Eleanor Bron (narr). Prog inc Jim Parker Betjeman poems*; Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade; wks by Holst, Curnow & Grainger. £12, £10, £8, £6 *NYWOGB
Mon 24 Apr 7.45	**LONDON SINFONIETTA** Arvo Pärt Emerging Light. Paavo Järvi (cond) Rebecca Hirsch (vln) Joan Atherton (vla) Erkki-Sven Tuur Insula Deserta (1st Lond perf) Architectonics II; Pärt Fratres; Tabula Rasa. £16, £12.50, £9.50, £6 *SBC/*LSP
Tue 25 Apr 7.45	**ACADEMY OF ST.MARTIN IN THE FIELDS** Kenneth Sillito (dir) Allison Eldredge (cello) Mozart Cassation No.1; Sym No.29; Bartók Divertimento; Haydn Cello Concerto. Sponsor: Energis. £12.50, £10, £8, £6 (ONLY) ASM (Orchestra) Ltd
Wed 26 Apr 7.45	**ORFF: CARMINA BURANA/POULENC: GLORIA.** National Westminster Choir, Westminster Philharmonic Orch, Ian Humphris (cond) Claire Rutter, Peter Hall, Christopher Booth-Jones £15, £13, £11, £9, £7 NWC
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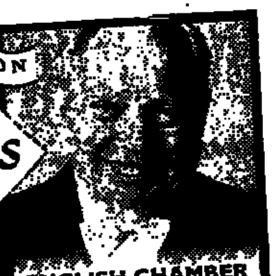
Mon 24 April 7.30pm	**THE ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** Christian Thielemann conductor, Angela Gheorghiu soprano. Wagner Overture to *Tannhäuser* Mozart Vado ma dove? Oh Dei, K583; Non Più, tutto ascoltai! Non temer, amato bene, K490 Strauss Ein Heldenleben £7.50 £12.50 £17.50 £22.50 £27.50 *The Royal Opera House Covent Garden Limited*
Thur 27 April 8.00pm	**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Hubert Soudant cond., Barbara Hendricks, Ruth Peel, Paul Whelan soloists, Tallis Chamber Choir, Pergolesi Stabat Mater, Fauré Requiem £8 £10 £15 £18 *English Chamber Orchestra & Music Society* *SPONSORED BY BARCLAYS DE ZOETE WEDD*



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Sunday 23 April 5.30 pm NB: starting time	KATHLEEN FERRIER AWARDS Final of the 40th Competition for the Kathleen Ferrier Awards £12, £10, £8, £5 Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship Fund
Monday 24 April 7.30 pm	MOZART'S SINGSPIEL: BASTIEN UND BASTIENNE THE BERNINI ENSEMBLE, Alastair Levy conductor, Andrew Burden *Bastien*, Helene Wold *Bastienne*, René Linnenbank *Colas* Haydn: Symphony No.49; Stravinsky: Concerto in D; Mozart: Bastien und Bastienne £14, £12, £9, £5 Rush-Hour Concert
Wednesday 26 April 6.00 pm NB: starting time	TASMIN LITTLE violin PIERS LANE piano Poulenc: Sonata Liszt: Rhapsodie Espagnole; Ravel: Tzigane All seats £7 Wigmore Hall/BBC Radio 3 French Season
Wednesday 26 April 8.00 pm NB: starting time	THIERRY FELIX baritone CHARLES SPENCER piano Schubert: 10 Lieder; Poulenc: Le Bestiaire Fauré: L'Horizon chimérique; Duparc: 3 Mélodies £12, £10, £8, £6 Wigmore Hall/French Institute
Thursday 27 April 7.30 pm	Early Music & Baroque Series THE KING'S NOYSE THE KING'S DELIGHT. Byrd; Browning; Brade: The satyr's dance; Dulcina; Scheidt: O neighbor Roland; Music by Thomas Simpson, John Whitfield & Anonymous £10.00, £8.50, £7.00, £5.50 Harmonia Mundi USA
Friday 28 April 7.30 pm	SIR GEORG SOLTI PRESENTS: PATRICIA PAGNY piano; LORA DIMITROVA piano. Scarlatti: 4 Sonatas; Chopin: Sonata in B flat minor Op.35; Beethoven: 32 Variations in C minor; Ravel: Oiseaux tristes; Une barque sur l'océan; Chopin: Ballade in F minor Op.52 £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 Susan Rivers/Ingpen & Williams Ltd Song Recital Series
Saturday 29 April 5.00 pm NB: starting time	SATURDAY SCHUBERTIAD Judith Howarth sop, David Mattinson baritone, Malcolm Martineau piano. Songs from Sept to Nov 1816 incl. Geheimes & Sehnsucht Wigmore Hall All seats £7 4pm: Pre-concert lecture £2.50 (£2 with ticket) incl. coffee/pastries French Season
Saturday 29 April 7.30 pm	PHILIPPE CASSARD piano WALTZES PROGRAMME. Ravel: Valses nobles et sentimentales Liszt: Valse-Impromptu; Valse-Oubliée No.2; Soirées de Vienne; Mephisto Waltz; Waltzes by Tchaikovsky, Durand, Scriabin, Lenfeld and Moszkowski £12, £10, £8, £6 Wigmore Hall/French Institute

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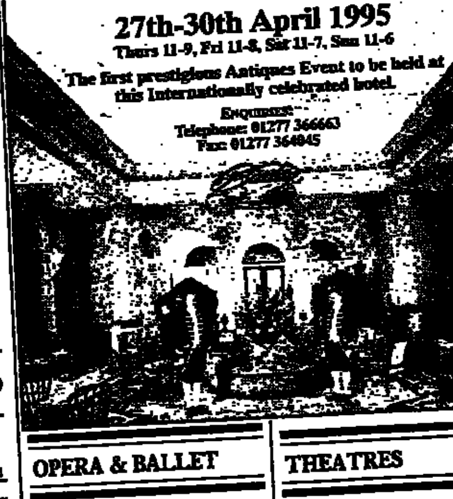

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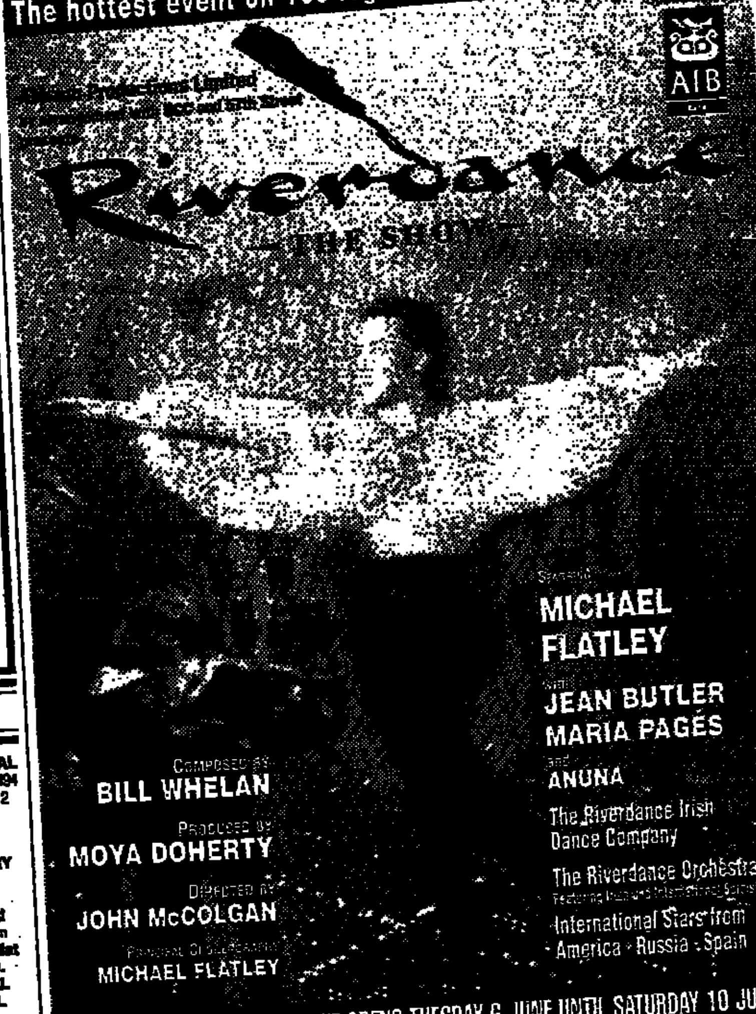

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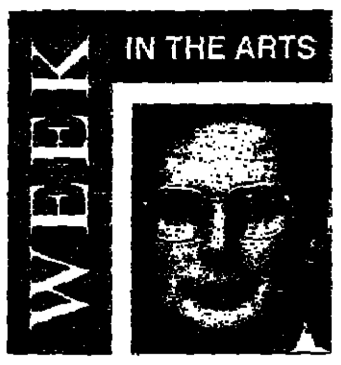
This season's monastery sensation



RICHARD MORRISON

So you want to be in show business? Then the best advice I can give you is "get thee to a nunnery". Or monastery, of course, depending on your personal grey area of ambiguity.

Yes, the rise and rise of the all-singing, all-dancing holy folk is the phenomenon of the Nineties. Last year, we learnt about the singing monks of Spain, whose 20-year-old recording of Gregorian chant became a best-seller for reasons unfathomable to man. God moves in a mysterious way, and so does the Top Ten at times.

Soon every other record company had its own choir of monks or nuns signed up and pumping out the old Mixolydian modes. What a pity that Sister Wendy Beckett does not sing. She could have made a fortune delivering a few drones on *Top of the Pops*.

But somebody produced the next best thing: Hildegard of Bingen. Not only was she a full-blown abbess, she had also been dead for 800 years, thus usefully rendering her music out of copyright. No rave is complete now without a "chill out" room where you lie down and listen to the 12th-century ditties of Abbess Hildegard.

And still the march of the cassocks goes unstoppably on — and no facetious remarks about kicking the habit, please; this is a respectful column. The sensation of the autumn will be the first British tour by the Shaolin Monks of China. Did I say first British tour? Good heavens, it will be the first time in 1,500 years that they have left their monastery. Bit of a coup for promoter Harvey Goldsmith, then. He has booked Wembley Arena, Birmingham NEC and other such temples of commerce for the monks to perform in.

And what will they sing? Well, actually they don't sing. They do kung-fu. Or, as Mr Goldsmith's representative more graphically puts it, they "hold burning metal chains, hang from a tree by the neck, break thick stone by hand, and have large poles slammed into their stomachs".

I trust that the Archbishop of Canterbury is preparing a team of top-class Sumo-wrestling curates to go on a reciprocal tour of China.

In an unwise attempt to keep tabs on popular culture, I have acquired a CD of Britain's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest. The song — *Love City Groove* by a group helpfully named Love City Groove — is in rap style, and to my ears a great advance on the *Rock-Me-Baby-Dinky-Dinky-Donk* school of composition that has hitherto dominated the Eurovision.

But the CD's format troubles me. It has seven tracks, amounting to 39 minutes of music. Instead of getting seven different songs, however, the innocent purchaser finds just one: the eponymous *Love City Groove*, presented in seven different "mixes" including one — a veritable *Parsifal* among rap tracks — that lasts 11 minutes.

For the rap enthusiast, no doubt, this is fascinating. And I would certainly not go so far as to call the CD a rip-off — not while the lawyers exercise their mature influence on my naive ramblings. But it does seem to be yet another instance of performers exploiting the phenomenon of "Anorak Culture": connoisseurship run wild, stamp-collecting masquerading as artistic discovery.

I have since discovered that this multi-mix dodge happens a lot in the pop world. Prince — or The Artist Formerly Known As Prince, as the preposterous fellow now calls himself (why not simply "Love City Groove" like everybody else?) — also issued an album containing seven versions of the same song. He called it *The Beautiful Experience*, and for his own bank balance it probably was.

But Anorak Culture has enervated other fields too. No opera recording is complete nowadays without an appendix giving alternative versions of the same arias. The idea is that opera buffs will painstakingly programme their CD players to deliver their favoured versions. Well, I know many opera fanatics — some very fanatical. But I have never met one fanatical enough to do that.

Another ludicrous product of Anorak Culture is the "director's cut". This is a wonderful wheeze for the egotistical film director. First, he persuades film buffs to watch his interminable epic. Then, two years later, he persuades the same buffs to part with another £7 and watch it all again. Only this time it is 40 minutes longer.

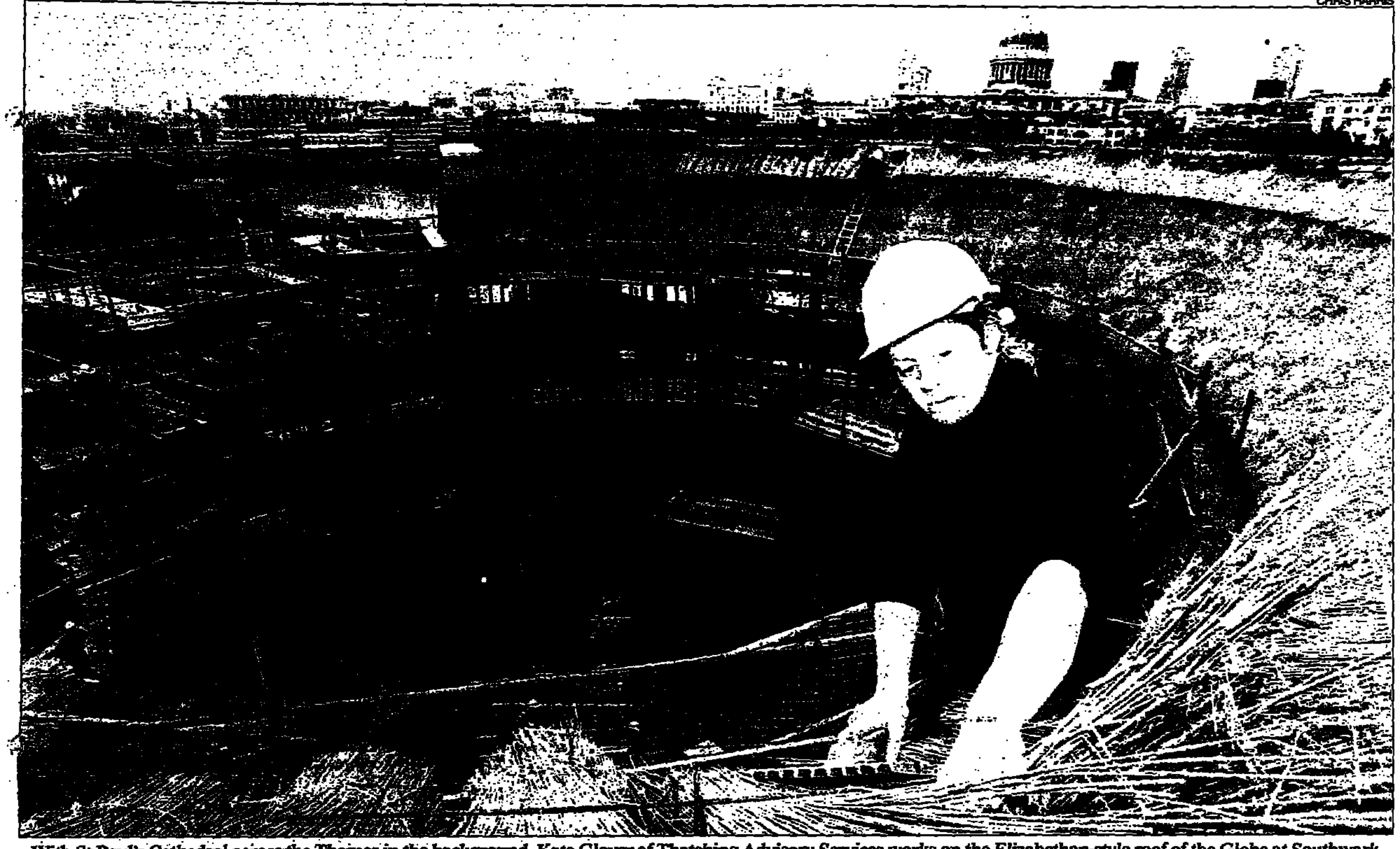
Who is the more pitiable? The supposedly creative people who exploit the same old pieces again and again? Or us, the consumers, for being dopey enough to pay them for doing so? I fear the latter.

A psychiatrist would doubtless say that this all reflects our fear of the unknown: that we prefer increasingly esoteric variants of the same cultural experience to taking a risk on something new. If this is so, it is strange to find such lack of adventure afflicting even the teeny-bopper fans of Love City Groove and Prince. Clearly, middle age follows very soon after puberty these days.

My Celebrity Buffoons of the Week? First, Luciano Pavarotti — for launching his men's perfume in apparently rude good health on the very day that he told the Royal Opera he was too ill to sing *Un ballo in maschera*. No wonder that Covent Garden punters have taken to translating the opera's title as "a balloon in mascara".

Second, David Bowie — for inflicting his terrible paintings on the general public in a London gallery. And third, Charles Saatchi — for buying two of them.

CHRIS HARRIS



With St Paul's Cathedral across the Thames in the background, Kate Glover of Thatching Advisory Services works on the Elizabethan-style roof of the Globe at Southwark

A Globe with world appeal

As Sam Wanamaker's glorious Shakespearean dream takes shape, **Benedict Nightingale** wonders who will fill it, and with what

Were Shakespeare to celebrate his 431st birthday tomorrow by taking a ghostly trip to Southwark, he might momentarily suppose he had travelled backwards rather than forwards in time. If he stood in the well of the replica Globe and looked down, he would, it is true, see concrete. But if he slowly raised his eyes, he might at first fancy himself in 1598, when the theatre was being built, and then in 1613, just before a canon in his *Henry VIII* ignited the thatch and burnt the original building to the ground.

It is an exhilarating moment for any bardophile: to walk out of the public exhibition next door and enter what is about to be the dead spit of the theatre where *Hamlet*, *Lear* and *Macbeth* had their premieres. The timber is in place, which means that all three tiers are almost ready to hold audiences, and so is the lime plaster behind. From the Elizabethan-type bricks at the bottom to the trim polygon of Elizabethan-style thatch 31 feet above, this is, recognisably Shakespeare's Globe.

The impression is of height and size. The Globe must have seemed a massive edifice in the early 17th century, and even today, when we possess the Palladium and Drury Lane, its replica will be one of the six largest theatres in London. That raises obvious questions. Can its management fill its 1,536 spaces — 1,000-odd people seated, 500 standing in the open air — when the theatre opens for business next year? And if so, with what?

It will be easier to come up with answers next month, when the Globe hopes to appoint an artistic director. Already it has highly impressive people on its "artistic board", among them Diana Rigg, Judi Dench, Nigel Hawthorne and Brian Cox. But they are meant to keep a general eye on the theatre's evolving policy. It will be up to the Globe counterpart of the National's Richard Eyre or the RSC's Adrian Noble to choose the plays, pick a company, and decide who will direct what.

Michael Holden, the Globe's chief executive since September, foresees a split company of 32, each half performing two plays during what will initially be a 15-week summer season and will, in 1997, become a 20-week one. Almost certainly the grand opening will be June 14, 1996, which happens to be the birthday of the project's sole begetter, the late Sam Wanamaker. Probably the first play will be *Henry V*, a suitably epic choice for a theatre open to the sky. But Holden is careful not to preempt his artistic director's decisions.

The importance of this appointment cannot be overemphasised. If the shortlist now being drawn up does not contain strong enough candidates, the trustees will surely have to seek out better people who had not considered applying. For it will take an exceptional person to generate enough excitement and confidence to attract able performers to an untried project for a summer. And without that excitement, those actors, the Globe could dwindle into a blend of museum and theme park.

That would be a terrible pity, given the enterprise and effort behind the Globe. In the 25 years since Wanamaker dedicated himself to the improbable ideal of recreating the world's most famous theatre, sceptics from Oxbridge cognoscenti to Southwark Council have been won over and more than £10 million raised. There is no way the project can go now except forwards, and that means not just finding more money, but convincing everyone the Globe has a vital contribution to make to British and indeed global culture.

It can be done. Every actor with any classical aspirations will surely want at some stage to tread where Shakespeare and his colleagues trod: on boards five feet above a sloping floor that, thanks to the architects' near-fanatic commitment to period authenticity, will consist of dried hazelnut shells, ash and grease. They will be performing in natural light to spectators who will either tower above or mill immediately below. "Our groundlings will be paying as little as £4 each some days and we don't expect them to be passive," Holden declares. "If it's a poor performance, they can boo. We know the actors will have to work to hold their attention."

A typical season will consist of a tragedy, history and comedy by the Bard himself, plus another play, perhaps by a contemporary writer. "Heritage" performance will be resisted, jeans and sweatshirts embraced if they suit a production. But any decor beyond bare props will be excluded, along with spotlights and other post-Elizabethan aids. Who knows? When an actor finds himself in the open air, relating to an audience as Richard Burbage and Will Kempe did, he may discover all kinds of fascinating things about his craft.

In some ways the project is a success even now. Its educational arm is organising workshops and other programmes for 25,000 students a year, and plans to multiply that number by ten. The Globe's exhibition, which will eventually move to a vast space beneath the theatre, is already attracting an annual 100,000, and should help to defray any deficits run up by what are likely to be unsubsidised productions. "We expect tourists on short visits to see the Tower, Westminster, St Paul's and the Globe," says Holden. "And maybe Madame Tussaud's afterwards."

A far-fetched hope? When a footbridge links Bankside with St Paul's steps, the power station nearby becomes Tate Gallery Two, and the area sprouts shops and cafés, it may not be. In any case, the Globe itself has plenty of plans afoot. Already the shell of its 330-seat Inigo Jones, a Jacobean-style indoors playhouse, is looking as if it will indeed receive visiting theatre and opera companies. Eventually, the Globe will be the core of a one-acre sprawl comprising an audio-visual library, an education centre, an Elizabethan knot garden and else.

That will end up costing £30 million in all. But if the Globe gets the £8.5 million it wants from the National Lottery, plus a fat cheque from the Millennium Fund for its exhibition hall, an awful lot could be in place by September 21, 1999. Then the theatre could happily celebrate the 400th anniversary of its predecessor's opening with a revival of its inaugural production, Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. So much of Wanamaker's impossible dream has come to pass. Why not that, too?

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

DEBORAH BULL

Profession: Ballerina.

Credentials: Hard slog and patience paid off when she was promoted to principal dancer three years ago, after more than ten years at Covent Garden. At 29, she was one of the oldest women in the Royal Ballet to win promotion to the senior ranks.

Slow and steady wins the race? "It *was* a slow climb. But I always say I'm quite grateful because you learn a lot going through the ranks. It's the knocks in life that really teach you things."

Where did she come from? Derby. Trained at the Royal Ballet School. Won the Prix de Lausanne in 1980.

What makes her stand out? Terrifically good-looking, Forties-style beauty. Strong, long-limbed elegance, great cheekbones. Cool and classy, the perfect villainess. If they had Oscars in ballet, she'd win one for her deliciously wicked portrayal of Gamzatti (*La Bayadère*).

What is she doing now? Working on the new Forsythe ballet which premieres at Covent Garden on Thursday.

Great British Hope?: "That implies somebody at the beginning of their career, and that's not exactly how I feel. Although I am hopeful and I am British!"

Is she as smart as everyone says? "I trust they're not referring to my dress sense! I am a quick study, I am quick at learning things." So quick, in fact, that a choreographer once remarked that Bull seemed to know the steps even before he had taught them to her. "Yes, I have a good memory for steps. And I'm pretty good on postcodes, too. I could always get a job at the local sorting office."

Goes for broke as a dancer: "I love to work in an extreme sort of way. I like to use everything: to go to great lengths. I find that somehow easier than using less. Some people have the ability to stand still on stage and look absolutely gorgeous. I don't feel I'm one of those who can naturally do that. My natural state is to move in a very dynamic way."

So she's a natural for Forsythe: "I have an affinity with his work and with what Billy is all about. Which is finding the limits, and pushing the limits of what the body can do. It's something I can do and I'm willing to go even further."

How about something a little less physical? "I adored doing *Sleeping Beauty* and I would love to do Juliet. I think I have a dramatic ability which is almost completely untapped. I'm allowed to do the nasty dramatic roles, but underneath it all I probably would like to see myself more as a Giselle."

DEBRA CRAINE

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Use your skill to value antiques for a cash prize
Everybody likes playing the antiques game — trying to guess the price of valuable objects.
In The Sunday Times tomorrow, study three auction items selected and described by Hilary Kay, of Sotheby's and TV's Antiques Roadshow, and estimate how much they sold for. Simply phone in your answer, and you could be on target for a prize of £1,000.
See the Style section — The Sunday Times tomorrow

CONCERT: **Stephen Pettitt** finds young strings on surprisingly good form

Opulent youth

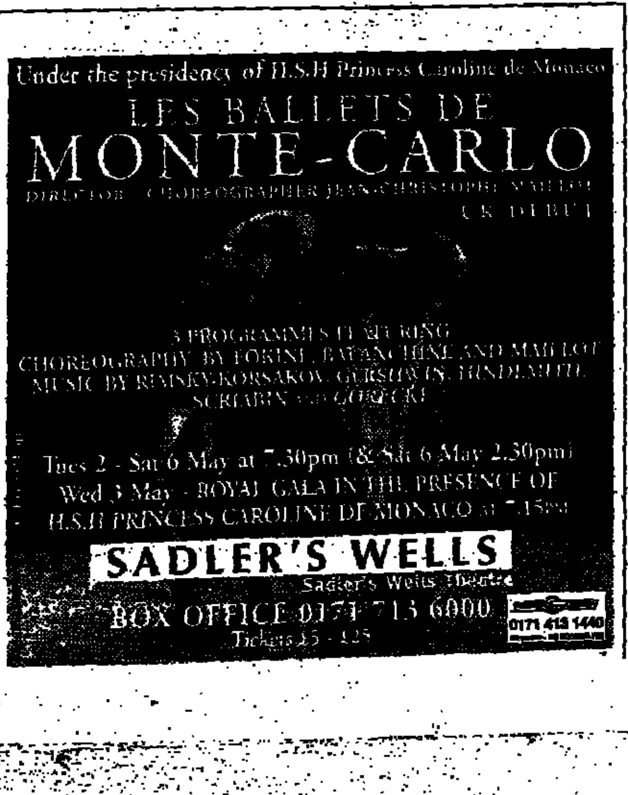
Ensemble XXI Moscow
St John's, Smith Square

THE circumstances of this concert did not augur well. The hall was cold, the printed programme amateurish. A fresh-faced Irish conductor, Lygia O'Riordan, showed a technique that looked suspiciously florid and extravagant. The band was a small string orchestra of conspicuously young players based in Moscow, even though only half were actually Russian. Many looked like comparatively recent graduates eager to negotiate that vital first step into the profession and thus easily recruited.

Yet Ensemble XXI Moscow, formed by O'Riordan and an associate in 1989 with the professed objective of "preserving the great Russian string tradition", actually play quite well. Their sound is strong and opulent and secure, while at her best O'Riordan is an effective servant of the music. Her best was not shown in a dull reading of Mozart's B flat major Divertimento, K137, nor in Tchaikovsky's ubiquitous Serenade for Strings, devoid of adequate dynamic contrast.

The first half of the concert brought rarer music and, it must be said, more committed, alive playing. To begin there was Ernest Bloch's Concerto Grosso of 1923 for string orchestra and piano obbligato, a meticulously crafted and inventive piece of neo-classicism. The piano (played here by Laura O'Gorman) fulfils the role of continuo, the resulting sound-world reminding one in the first instance of nothing other than Nadia Boulanger's Monteverdi.

The two soloists in Sofia Gubaidulina's *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, the archetype of Russian bleakness and gloom, took rather more responsibility on their shoulders. In this intense sequence for strings, solo accordion and solo cello Gubaidulina uses clustered textures, microtonal inflections and highly precise individual coloration of notes as powerful expressive tools. The accordion is particularly adept at all of those devices, while the strange remoteness of its basic sound also helps this powerful, deeply affecting work to achieve its flavour. Owen Murray's playing of the instrument was poetically poised and dramatically gutsy, while the cellist Mark Friedman gave a performance just as captivating.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WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

◪ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: Exhilaratin' song' n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ ***BROKEN GLASS***: Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

□ ***DANGEROUS CORNER***: Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735) Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

□ ***DESIGN FOR LIVING***: Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's *menage à trois* comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue W1 *(0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats* Thurs 3pm and Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

□ **IF WE ARE WOMEN**: Richard Olivier directs Joan Plowright and Diana Quick in a play by Canadian Joanna McClelland Glass: three generations of women come together after a death and deal with their past
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Apr 29 Ⓢ

□ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE**: Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about bravely facing death. Interesting and finally touching as it shows the *effects, ill and good, of emotional* restraint
Apollo, *Shaftesbury Avenue, W1* (0171-494 5070) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ ***INDIAN INK***: Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest: wittily, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and *Sat, 3pm.*

□ **THE LIBERATION OF SKOPJE**: Vanessa Redgrave and Rade Serbedzija *in incomprehensible epic play about* the Resistance in 1940s Macedonia. *Opening of Moving Theatre's season* commemorating World War Two
Riverside Studio 1, *Crisp Road*, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2255). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sun, 4pm. Ⓢ

□ **THE LIVE BED SHOW**: Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1989 Edinburgh Festival comedy: Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 6.30pm and 8.45pm

■ ***THE MAN WHO***: A very brief season for further performances of Brook's astonishing staging of episodes from *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat *4pm. No perf May 1, until May 6.* Ⓢ

□ **THE MILL ON THE FLOSS**: Three actresses (Anne-Marie Duff, Catherine *Cusack and Helen Schlesinger)* play the heroine in Shared Experience's *acclaimed production*. Helen Edmundson adapts, Nancy Meckler directs
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, 1.30pm and Sat, 2.30pm. Until May 13. Ⓢ

□ **THE MOSQUITO COAST**: Outstanding production by the David Glass Ensemble, dramatising Paul Theroux's novel of the crazed American who drags his family into the jungle. *Striking visual effects.*
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) *Tonight, 7.30pm. Final week.*

□ **ONE FINE DAY**: Joe McGann's compelling performance as a devoted *dad caught up in a child-abuse case.* Dennis Lumborg's engrossing one-man play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◪ **SIMPATICO**: Powerful acting from Ciaran Hinds, Sean McGinley, Janet McTeer and Tony Haygarth in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. *Not vintage Shepard but insightful and* gripping.

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 13

□ **OUR BOYS**: Jonathan Lewis's searching and often funny drama set in a military hospital where the soldiers start questioning the army's commitment to *them.* Nko Turner directs
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 *(0171-369 1732) Mon-Fri, 8pm,* Sat, 6.15pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. Until May 13. Ⓢ

■ **UNCLE VANYA**: Field Day's new *version*, with Stephen Rea in the title role. Goodish details in a production *otherwise too sober and restrained*
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 4pm. Until Apr 29. Only tickets available are for Apr 26 mat; *returns at box office from 7pm.* Ⓢ

■ ***THE WIVES' EXCUSE***: Excellent rediscovery of Thomas Southerne's 1691 comedy where an injured wife considers revenge in an era of unbridled lechery. Max Stafford-Clark directs
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Now previewing, 7.15pm, *mat today, 2pm. Opens April 27* Ⓢ

◪ ***THE YIDDISH TROJAN WOMEN***: Quick re-appearance for Carole *Braverman's rich play on the demands* and dangers of self-deceit. Fine playing by the four women, led by Marie Charles as a memory-torn matriarch, and terrific performance by Ronan Vibert as a horny baker. Recommended
Cockpit, Gateforth Street, NW8 (0171-402 5081). *Tue-Sun, 8pm, mats Wed* and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . . □ ***Blood Brothers***: *Phoenix* (0171-867 1044) . . ◪ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ◪ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . ◪ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) □ **Mama I Want to Sing**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ■ **Miss Saigon**: *Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400)* . . □ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-*839 4488*) . . ◪ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . □ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ■ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune *(0171-836 2238)*

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BEFORE SUNRISE *(15). See Critics'* Choice, page 2

LE COLONEL CHABERT (PG)
Stodgy presentation of a good Balzac yarn about a man thought dead trying to reclaim his past. With Gérard Depardieu and Fanny Ardant.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): See *Critics' Choice, page 2*

LA FRONTERA (15): Atmospheric first feature about a Chilean exiled to an *isolated village.* Director, Ricardo Larrain
Metro (0171-437 0757)

◆ ***OUTBREAK*** (18): Taut virus thriller that turns silly. With Dustin Hoffman and Rene Russo and Morgan Freeman. Director, Wolfgang Petersen.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ *(0171-434 0031)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

AMATEUR (15): Amnesiac pornographer faces his past with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley, with Martin Donovan and Isabelle Huppert
MGM Panton Street *(0171-930 0631)*

◆ ***AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE*** (15): A teenager's postwar theatre experiences. Fascinating abrasive drama from Beryl Bainbridge's novel. Mike Newell directs Alan Rickman, Hugh Grant and newcomer Georgina Cates.
MGMs: Fulham Road Ⓢ *(0171-370 2636)* **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ANDRE**: Adventures of an orphaned *seal. Well-packaged family film with* Keith Carradine, Tina Majorino and a scene-stealing sea lion
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. *Superficially enjoyable version of* Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson
MGMs: Fulham Road Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DROP ZONE** (15): Wesley Snipes *goes undercover to catch skydiving* criminals. Good aerial stunts, other*wise an empty action thriller*
Plaza (0800 888997)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12): Idiotic, *good-natured comedy that outstays its* welcome, with Jim Carrey and Jeff *Daniels. Director*, Peter Farrelly.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** *(01426 914098)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

HOOP DREAMS (15): Marvellous documentary by Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing professional basketball.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 *8279)*

◆ **JUST CAUSE** (18): Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a *murder case in Florida. Ludicrous* investigative thriller, with Laurence Fishburne. Director, Arne Glimcher
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LEON (18): Precious child shelters *under a hitman's wing.* Sleek, empty thriller shot in New York by French *director Luc Besson. With Jean Reno,* Natalie Portman and Gary Oldman
Empire (0800 888911) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683)

◆ **THE LITTLE RASCALS** (U): Tame adventures of innocent imps, based on the Our Gang shorts. Penelope Spheeris directs a difficult child cast
MGMs: Fulham Rd (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** *(0800 888997)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***LITTLE WOMEN*** *(U): Fresh, tender,* feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon and Gabriel Byrne. Director Gillian Armstrong
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE** (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren, Ian Holm
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) ***Lumiere*** *(0171-836 0691)* ***MGMs: Haymarket*** (0171-839 1527)

Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** *(01426 914666)* **Phoenix** *(0181-883 2233)* **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ *(0171-792 3332)* **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **MURIEL'S WEDDING** (15): Ugly *duckling becomes swan. Boisterous,* queasy Aussie comedy. P J Hogan directs Toni Collette, Bill Hunter and Rachel Griffiths.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Chelsea** *(0171-352 5096)* **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** *(01426 915353)* **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-*226 3520)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ *(0171-792 3332)* **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

NELL (12): Doctor Liam Neeson *nurtures backwoods wild child* Jodie Foster. Well acted, well meant, but glutinous. Director, Michael Apted.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683)

◆ **NOBODY'S FOOL** (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis *and Jessica Tandy.* Writer-director, Robert Benton
Odeons: Kensington *(01426 914666)* **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

ONCE WERE WARRIORS (18): Forceful New Zealand tale of Maori *culture ravaged by the urban ghetto.* Lee Tamahori directs a powerful cast
Clapham Picture House *(0171-498 3323)* **Electric** Ⓢ (0171-792 2020) ***MGMs: Fulham Road*** *(0171-370 2636)* **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961
Barbican Ⓢ *(0171-638 8891)* **MGMs: Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** *(0171-352 5096)* **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

POETIC JUSTICE (15): Over-ambitious romantic odyssey from Boyz N' the Hood director John Singleton, with Janet Jackson and Tupac Shakur
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**: How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

A chorus of disapproval

Nigel Sharpe hears in our cathedrals the faint death-knell of choral music

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Westminster choristers: the true prize that girls are being denied by all-male choirs is a superb subsidised education

This week an 11-year-old girl made headlines when she challenged Winchester Cathedral's decison to ban her from singing in the cathedral choir on grounds of gender. Emily Edmondstone has already written to the Archbishop of Canterbury to complain, with a petition from 200 supporters. The Archbishop, however, has no jurisdiction in the matter. Now Emily's mother has said that a legal challenge may be forthcoming.

If that happens, it will be seen by many church musicians as inevitable, by others as regrettable, and by some as utterly desirable. It will certainly bring to a head one of the biggest musical controversies in recent years: the question of whether cathedrals should continue to maintain choirs of men and boys in an era when sexual equality is the goal in society at large, and when the Church of England is already appointing women priests.

The last factor would clearly seem to dispose of the "tradition" argument. If women can become priests, why should girls not also upturn centuries-old traditions and join boys in the choir-stalls? They could, after all, be treated just like boys, joining at seven or eight and leaving at 13 (the average age when boys' voices break).

A stronger argument in the traditionalists' favour, perhaps, is the musical one: the great Tudor anthems that still form the basis of the cathedral choir's repertoire were all written with boys' voices in mind; boy trebles do have a different timbre from girls; and the English cathedrals (and Oxbridge chapels) are acknowledged throughout the world for their choral excellence. Why change a winning combination?

But that is only one way of looking at it. Seen in a broader educational light, the continuation of all-male choirs can only be regarded as a huge discrimination against young girls who are musically gifted and intellectually bright. For the fact is that if a boy belongs to a cathedral choir, he is also given a prep-school education that is often second to none, and at a much reduced cost to his parents.

The richer the foundation, the greater the reduction in school fees that can be offered. That, as much as any reputation for musical excellence, is why parents scramble to get their boys into the sumptuously endowed Westminster Abbey or King's College Cambridge choirs. And many choirboys then win music scholarships to major public schools — scholarships that subsidise their education to the age of 18.

This is the true prize that girls are being denied, and the real reason why there is growing resentment against the system. Some cathedrals have attempted to defuse the discontent by forming separate girls' choirs, which sing certain services with the men. This certainly enables girls to experience the extraordinary musical discipline and training that is given to cathedral choirboys. But the vast bulk of privileges still rests with the boys; this is where the battle line has been drawn.

But could all this soon be irrelevant? Cathedral choirs used to be the top of a great musical pyramid: every parish church in England would boast a choir constituted along similar lines, but singing simpler music to less demanding standards. Such parish choirs, however, are now the exception, not the norm. Increasingly, priests want "happy-clappy" music, using guitars and simple refrains. The four-part choir singing in harmony, and giving local children a taste of the glory of choral polyphony, is actively discouraged in many parishes, despite the best endeavours of the "umbrella" organisation for parish music, the Royal School of Church Music.

That has left the cathedral choirs dangerously exposed. They used to be pinnacles of achievement that parish choirs could emulate: now, to many younger clergymen, they simply seem remote and anachronistic. You do not have to be a Joanna Trollope reader to fear that it is only a matter of time before an ancient cathedral choir actually is abolished by a dean and chapter that cannot see the point of it. The words "all-male bastion of elitism" will then echo like a death-knell for English choral music.

This, perhaps, is the chief reason why cathedral choirs should think urgently about making fundamental changes — before change or abolition is forced on them.

Load up your Shakespeare

FUTURE VISIONS

CAN a home computer really be educational? When I write about "family" computers, as in the last Future Visions, I am often asked that question. Multimedia computers are being sold very much as encyclopaedias were, as educational essentials, often "bundled" with a CD-Rom encyclopaedia. But wary parents are inclined to wonder what lies beyond these: can the machine be used for more specific schoolwork, or is it just a gimmick?

To provide some answer to that in this short compass, I decided to see how such a machine would let me explore an "essential" subject which is *not natural computer fodder*. Enter Shakespeare, beloved of the Prince of Wales and other educational reformers, at home either on the boards or between them. What more could electronics add? Three new CD-Roms gave me very different answers.

The most ambitious came from Oxford publishers Attica. They are devoting a CD-Rom to each play — *Romeo and Juliet* is the first — containing a complete performance in sound, with synchronised text on screen, to which is added video excerpts of crucial scenes from the BBC Shakespeare series. All this is linked to study material such as commentaries, character analyses, studies of language, performance and staging — including more video excerpts, on the reconstructed Globe for example — and background information on Shakespeare's life. The result has something of the fascination of the marvellous old Arden editions, with their two lines of play per hundred footnotes; but in a far more colourful, less forbidding form. However, ambition always has its price. This ought to be a boon to schools — but on older PCs it runs like a spavined snail, and the tedious waits between items risk killing off the youthful enthusiasm it kindles. And how many schools have the latest machines?

A less dramatic but thoroughly usable disc comes from Andromeda Interactive, also of Oxford: *The Complete Works on CD-Rom*. This offers a great deal more than just the scanned-in texts on some earlier discs. Its attractive interface represents an old-fashioned library whose various items activate the software functions. These include the complete texts, several *Schools Shakespeare* versions, the Sonnets and other poems, and to my delight, *Sir Thomas More* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen* from the Apocrypha. To these are added introductions, commentaries, analyses of difficult words and phrases, historical and biographical background and examination material. Powerful analysis software will find quotations and occurrences of words, and even trace characters, subplots, ideas and imagery within individual plays or throughout the canon — ideal for the Malcolm Bradbury character writing a thesis on Shakespeare's fish-imagery. An integral word processor on the PC version lets you write essays and so on alongside the text, cross-referencing or copying in examples. Without sound or video this is *not* multimedia, but it is fast, accessible and meaty stuff.

Perhaps the most original approach comes from Beauford Publications' *Karaoke Shakespeare*, again offering audio performance with synchronised text, and cartoon graphics to set the scenes. Here, though, you can cut out one or more characters and take those parts, slotting yourselves karaoke-fashion into the play. It really is an inspired concept, potentially great and highly involving fun for schools or individuals. Sadly, however, on the first disc, *Macbeth*, the recorded performance is — well, amateurish. The wisely uncredited actors sound like local drama group rejects, plonking out the lines without pace or direction, a false economy which ought to be remedied on later releases.

All these discs do things that books and video cannot. I enjoyed Shakespeare at school, but I would have seized on them all the more avidly for the sense of immediacy they offer, and the way they lead you on to explore intriguing trains of thought with speed and ease. And if that is not educational, what is?

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

VE – and after

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

A SEASON of plays entitled *Memory — May 9th 1945* is being brought to the Riverside Studios in west London by Vanessa and Corin Redgrave and the Moving Theatre Company. Based on the theme of liberation following the defeat of fascism in 1945, as well as the danger of new forms of fascism and nationalism today, the season will continue until June 17. A highlight will doubtless be a production of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, starring Vanessa Redgrave as Cleopatra. Other notable plays in the season are Dusan Jovanic's *The Liberation of Skopje*, Alex Ferguson's new play *The Casement*; and Max Frisch's prophetic play *The Fire Raisers*.

Theatre Club members can buy tickets to the press night of *Antony and Cleopatra* on June 1 for £12, and meet the cast after the show. There will also be a special price reduction for all 13 shows in the season. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for productions in Studios 1 and 2 for £10 (normally £12) and in Studio 3 for £5 (normally £7). To book, telephone 0181-741 2255

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage
TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

OTHER OPENINGS, OTHER SHOWS FOR YOUR DIARY

LONDON
Bloomsbury Theatre
May 3-4
● THE London premiere of Rock Theatre of Budapest's passionate and powerful *Dorian Gray — The Musical*, an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's classic novel. Club members can buy tickets for £10 (normally £14 and £18). Tel 0171-388 8822

RICHMOND
Orange Tree
May 9-11, 16-18
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £11.50) to see Tim Piggott-Smith and Victoria Hamilton in James Saunders's *Retreat*. Tel 0181-940 3633

PITLOCHRY
Festival Theatre
● THE 1995 season opens on April 28 with Alan Ayckbourn's *A Chorus of Disapproval*. Other plays include: *Charley's Aunt* by Brandon Thomas (from May 3); *Cause Celebre* by Terence Rattigan (from May 10); *The Steamie* by Tony Roper (from May 17); *Building Blocks* by Bob Larbey (from May 24); *Wuthering Heights*, dramatised by John Clifford (from June 28); *First-Class Passengers*, by Allan Massie. Tickets for all these plays £8, £10.50 and £12.50 (normally £9.50, £12 and £14). Tel 01796 472680

NEWCASTLE
Playhouse
April 25-29
● THE irreverent black farce *Dumbstruck!*, the hit of 1994's Glasgow Mayfest, stars Elaine C. Smith, Jimmy Chisholm and Forbes Masson. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9 to £12.50). Tel 0191-201 8093

LLANDUDNO
North Wales Theatre
May 8-11
● CELEBRATE the sound and style of Jake and Elwood Blues in *A Tribute to the Blues Brothers*. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50). Tel 01492 872000

CHESTER
Gateway Theatre
May 5-6, 9-11
● JOHN MCKAY's *Crush* is the hilarious and moving story of a man who, 15 years after he had fallen in love with one of his teachers, meets her again, and has the chance to build a relationship. Two tickets for the price of one (normally £5 to £8.50). Tel 01244 340392

NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME
New Victoria Theatre
May 22-25
● TICKETS £5 (normally £6.50) for Gilbert & Sullivan's classic operetta *The Mikado*. Tel 01782 717962

BIRMINGHAM
Repertory Theatre
April 25-May 1
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £14.50 and £15.50) for Shaw's evergreen *Pygmalion*, and enjoy a 10 per cent discount in the theatre restaurant. Tel 0121-236 4455

ON TOUR

● PATTI BOULAYE and Grace Kennedy star in alternate performances of Oscar Hammerstein's *Carmen Jones*, set to Bizet's vibrant music. See it on tour at:

WOKING
New Victoria Theatre
April 25-May 6
● Save £4 on the top two prices for evening performances from Monday to Thursday (normally £20 and £23), and £8 on the top price for all matinees (normally £16 and £17). Tel 01483 761144

SOUTHAMPTON
Mayflower Theatre
May 10-12
● Save 20 per cent on the top two prices (normally £20.50 to £27.50). Tel 01703 229771

BRISTOL
Hippodrome
May 23-June 10
● Save £5 on the top two prices (normally £15 to £25) for performances on Monday to Friday evenings and Saturday matinees. Tel 0117-929 9444/929 7799

CARDIFF
New Theatre
July 4-5
● Save £5 on the top two prices in the stalls (normally £21 and £22). Tel 01222 394844

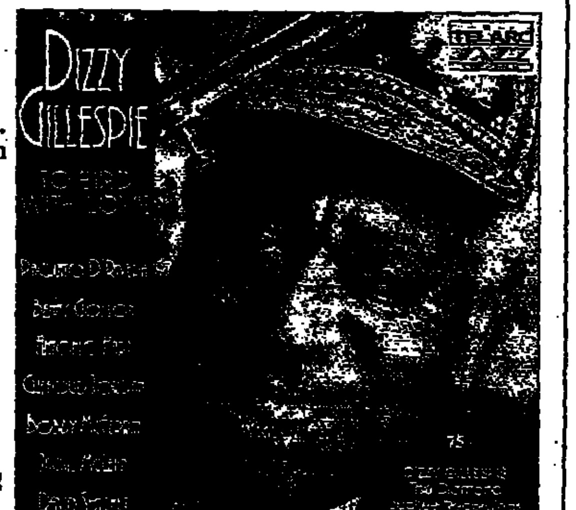
The WH Smith featured CD

Dizzy Gillespie was one of a handful of revolutionaries who took American jazz to new heights by developing bebop.

In this album, one of his last, Gillespie celebrates his ties with Charlie "Bird" Parker in the exciting years for serious black musicians immediately after the Second World War.

It features a hand-picked group of players and was recorded over three days in January 1992 at the Blue Note, New York.

Take the coupon below to a WH Smith music counter and you can obtain it at a £3 saving on the normal price of £13.99. The offer is valid until May 13.



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RECORDINGS: A free spirit plays Schumann; vocal thrills from Thill; Oasis go from strength to strength

Hilary Finch

■ SCHUMANN
Waldszenen/Drei Romanzen etc
Maria João Pires
DG 437 538-2★★★

MARIA João Pires, Mitsuko Uchida and Radu Lupu have all issued fascinating new Schumann recitals this month: as space permits only one, my choice must be that by Pires, yet another recording which reveals the free spirit and unique character of this outstanding pianist.

Her *Waldszenen* (*Woodland Scenes*) seem to drift in and out of the subconscious, inhabiting a dream world from which they fitfully wake to bright, fleeting visions. The sentient fingerwork, firmly articulated, yet quivering with instinctive response, is entirely typical of Pires, and makes any mannered rubato entirely superfluous. *Lonely Flowers* and *Bird as Prophet* have a rare unaffected simplicity and perfection of scale.

After an airy, contemplative *Arabeske*, Pires generates quite a head of steam for the *Three Romances*, Op 28. They have their moments of elusive inwardness, too, before the parade of the Viennese Carnival in *Faschingsschwank Aus Wien*. The ear is always kept alert to hear what may be coming round the next corner, whether in a barely audible yet compellingly eloquent *Romanze*, or in the hide-and-seeking frolics of the *Scherzino*.

João Pires: outstanding

☐ BARTOK/ SCHOENBERG
Miraculous Mandarin/ Kammersymphonie
Kocsis Hauser
Harmonia Mundi HMA 190-3021★★

TO COINCIDE with Philips's release of Zoltan Kocsis's continuing complete Bartók edition, Harmonia Mundi reissues the Hungarian pianist's previous elusive world premiere recording of the composer's piano transcription of *The Miraculous Mandarin*, together with Schoenberg's transcription of his own *Kammersymphonie*.

Piano transcriptions flourished not only as the means of distribution and publicity long before records were thought of; but they increasingly became re-compositions in their own right, and the more virtuoso the better. Kocsis and his wife, Adrienne Hauser, create their own toy theatre for the *Mandarin*, and bring an electric tension and velocity to its erotic and exotic narrative.

Schoenberg was rather more austere in his thinking about the principles and aims of transcriptions; but Kocsis and Hauser certainly show high spirits as well as intellectual rigour in the *Kammersymphonie's* complex and compressed polyphony.

Clive Davis

■ JACQUI DANKWORTH/ ANTHONY KERR
First Cry
EFZ 1010★★

AS BOTH a singer and actress, Jacqui Dankworth has the potential to match the achievements of her mother Cleo Laine. Turning its back on the conventional vocal repertoire, her debut album forms a bold declaration of independence, her ethereal voice woven into the subtle vibraphone and marimba phrasing of Anthony Kerr. Bosco de Oliviera's restrained percussion adds to the atmosphere of exoticism. Kerr's themes draw on a thoughtful combination of jazz, Latin and pop influences. Dankworth's lyrics are the one weak link. Aspiring to the timeless and spiritual, they tend to read like New Age greeting cards from some Californian ashram. It says a lot for her artistry — and Kerr's arrangements — that most of them are delivered with conviction.

☐ VARIOUS ARTISTS
Big Bands In Hi-Fi, Vols 1&2 (2 CDs each)
Capitol CDP-8278132/8278162★★★

THE record store shelves are, of course, groaning with big-band compilations, many of them of dubious heritage. No such reservations apply to the sprawling contents of these beautifully recorded mid-price anthologies from the Capitol archives, which amount to a concise history of the swing orchestra, from Goodman to Ellington, Shaw, Kenton and beyond. The big band era was past its peak by the time the leaders were invited into the studios to re-create their old hits, but the depth and clarity of the sound ensure that these performances possess a rare freshness.

■ CHARLIE HADEN/ HANK JONES
Steal Away
Verve 527249-2★

GREAT things might have been expected of this recital of gospel hymns and folk songs. The closing medley, featuring *Abide With Me* and *What We Have In Jesus*, certainly has a quiet grandeur about it. Otherwise the combination of Jones's ruminative piano and Haden's double bass suffers from a certain monotony of mood and tempo. In the end neither man is forceful enough to compensate for the absence of a vocalist.

John Higgins

■ L'INCOMPARABLE GEORGES THILL
Forlane UCD 16727 (1 CD)★★★

THILL was the greatest French tenor of the interwar years. There was no one to match him in the heroic roles of French opera, whether as Berlioz's Aeneas, Massenet's Le Cid or Saint-Säens's Samson. Whenever a call to arms was needed, Thill's clarion tones were at the ready. There was even a recording of the *Marseillaise*, but this alas is not contained on Forlane's collection.

Otherwise it is a very representative assembly of Thill's early years, with tracks covering 1927 to 1933 when he was in his early thirties and before he came to international fame with his film of Charpentier's *Louise*, opposite Grace Moore. Some of the recordings are very familiar, with one or two of them already available in slightly extended form on EMI's Thill issue of French opera arias (CDM 7 69548 2): no one would want to be without his version of Roméo's *Ah! Lève-toi soleil* or Admetus's *Bannis la crainte* from Gluck's *Malceste*. Forlane adds in Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*, and Thill in strictly sentimental mood with Messager's *J'aimais ma vieille maison grise* from *Fortunio*. Thill was not just an heroic tenor.

He can be criticised for singing everything in French, whether it be Verdi's Radames or Wagner's Lohengrin. But with tones as virile and open as his and the high Cs emerging effortlessly it is possible to forgive him anything.

■ JUSSI BJORLING
The Ultimate Collection
RCA 7432 1 24281 2 (2 CDs)★★★

THE punning title half indicates that these recordings have been taken from the last decade of Björling's career, from 1950 to 1959. He died, partly through overindulgence in alcohol, before he was 50 so there is no question of this showing a tenor in decline. On the contrary. Two separate tracks of "Nessun dorma", one from 1958 and the other from 1959, show him to be the equal of Pavarotti in this number any day.

He was the supreme Puccini tenor and it is a pity to find neither Lt Pinkerton nor Dick Johnson here, but most of the other heroes are present and very correct. The second CD includes a number of duets, several of them featuring Björling's regular baritone partner at the Met, Robert Merrill. *Au fond du temple saint* used to get a lot of airtime when *Housewives' Choice* ruled the airwaves, but just as good is *Solenne in quest'ora* from Verdi's *Forza*.

RCA is currently offering the two CDs for the price of one, so this set is highly recommended to anyone starting a collection.

Stephen Pettitt

■ THE DARK IS MY DELIGHT
Evelyn Tubb/Michael Fields
Musica Oscura 070980★★★

THERE is a thick forest of recorded riches in the pre-classical and contemporary eras, my domains on this page, and so it is too easy to pass by not only deserving individual releases but also sometimes whole labels. One which has escaped my attention hitherto is Musica Oscura, the marque under which Anthony Rooley's The Consort of Musicke and its associated stable of artists record. The catalogue, devoted mostly to 17th and 18th-century vocal chamber music, is small but fine. Those who wish to sample without burning their fingers might consider buying the competitively priced sampler disc (280826) called *Bringing Light to the Unknown*, which includes representative tracks from the seven series into which Musica Oscura's catalogue is usefully divided.

One of those series is called *Women in Song*. As yet there are only two discs on this particular list, but this, the second, is a pleasing selection of intimate 17th-century English lute songs (ironically composed by men, at least in instances where we know the composer's name) that vary from the mundane and simple ballad-songs like the anonymous *I Am a Poor and Helpless Maid* and *There Was a Maid the Other Day* to the emotionally powerful outpouring of the great John Wilbye's *Weep, Weep Mine Eyes*, or Robert Johnson's equally affecting *Woods, Rocks and Mountains*. The disc has been well researched, mostly from manuscript sources in Britain and New York, by the lutenist Michael Fields, who delicately supports the singer Evelyn Tubb. Tubb's style of delivery is, well, heavily stylised. Sometimes her bedroom coyness, as in Thomas Brewer's *Drowsy Sun, Why Dost Thou Stay?*, seems a touch fey and predictable, and sometimes her swooping from note to note and sudden change of dynamic seems unduly affected. But her control is absolute, and she involves herself thoroughly with the music.

☐ GREENE
Songs and Keyboard Works
Emma Kirkby/Lars Ulrik Mortensen
Musica Oscura 070978★★★

THIS disc, of music by probably the finest English-born composer of the time, is part of the series Handel and his Circle. It shows well the immense stylistic variety of Greene's music, ranging from the straighforward, open style of his English ballad-like songs to his florid, ornate Italian settings, and taking in a comparatively large-scale and indisputably fine English cantata, *Beauty, an Ode*, on the way. There is also a fine setting of Shakespeare's *Orpheus with his Lute*, as well as six sonnets by Edmund Spenser. Emma Kirkby sings with radiance and intelligence, accompanied in the cantata by an excellent quartet of Baroque strings and supported by the harpsichordist Lars Ulrik Mortensen, who stylishly plays a number of keyboard movements.

Emma Kirkby: radiant

☐ PALLAVICINO
Il sesto libro de madrigali a cinque voci, 1600
Consort of Musicke
Musica Oscura 070976★★★

BENEDETTO Pallavicino is the man who pipped Monteverdi to the post by succeeding the great Giaches de Wert as the Gonzaga family's *maestro di capella* in 1596. Monteverdi sourly referred to him thereafter as an "adequate" composer. Attentive listening to this lovely recording (in the series The Monteverdi Circle) of Pallavicino's sixth book of madrigals, ravishingly expressive, fluid settings of texts mostly by Guarini and Tasso, will soon tell you that Pallavicino is far, far better than that. The music is most beautifully performed, delicately combining blend and character of voice.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ SIEGFRIED WAGNER
Complete Overtures I
Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz/Albert
cpo 999 003-2★★★

SIEGFRIED Wagner was not the only composer to labour under the shadow of the Master of Bayreuth, but being the son of the great man undoubtedly exacerbated the situation. As a result, it is only in recent times that Siegfried's works — he composed 18 operas, incidentally (five more than his father) — are at last attaining the recognition they deserve.

The recording of his symphonic poem *Sehnsucht*, Op 0, recently did little to advance his reputation. But now, from the German label cpo, comes volume 1 of a projected Complete Overtures, containing some truly remarkable music. The overture to *Die heilige Linde* is considered by some to be Siegfried's finest, and certainly it is a piece that highlights his skill in orchestration, as well as his melodic flair. That to *Der Friedensengel* has a quality of tranquil radiance that immediately proclaims him the son of his father, while *Der Schmied von Marienburg* actually comes pretty close to quoting the Valhalla motif from *The Ring*. Herzog Wildfang, on the other hand — whose overture is the fourth on this disc — dared to attempt a parody of *Die Meistersinger*.

The performances of all four overtures, under the experienced direction of Werner Andreas Albert, are exemplary. The continuation is awaited with impatience.

☐ CARL STAMITZ
Four Symphonies
London Mozart Players/Bamert
Chandos CHAN 9358★★★

IT IS an interesting fact that the symphonies of Haydn and Mozart amount to less than 1 per cent of all those written in the 18th century. Some of the other 99 per cent are at last seeing the light of day, thanks in no small part to enterprising companies such as Chandos, cpo and Capriccio.

This is the third release in Chandos's "Contemporaries of Mozart" series. The previous one, of two symphonies by Franz Krommer (from the same forces), I welcomed last year, and this disc of four symphonies by Carl Stamitz has given me scarcely less pleasure. The works include one entitled *La Chasse* (*The Hunt*), scored colourfully for strings, oboes, horns, trumpets and timpani, and others featuring the famous "Mannheim crescendo", cultivated by the orchestra in that city under the direction of Carl Stamitz's father Johann, an equally prolific symphonist.

Matthias Bamert and the London Mozart Players once again offer stylish, alert performances. This is a series that could run and run.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ OASIS
Some Might Say
Creation★★★

MAINTAINING a work-rate that is almost comparable to that of the great pioneering rock'n'roll bands of the 1960s, Oasis follow up their massive Christmas hit, *Whatever*, with another four brand new songs, none of which is to be found on the *Definitely Maybe* album.

Oasis: rapid work rate

Some Might Say is a raucous pop-rocker, influenced as much by the Faces as by the Beatles, with a real blaster of a chorus, and *Acquiesce* is almost as good, a typical Oasis minor chord sequence with lyrics about people needing and believing in one another. *Headshrinker* is faster and louder still, but without any discernible tune, while *Talk Tonight* is a contrastingly sensitive ballad showcasing the boys' vulnerable side.

If there is currently a British band who have the bull gripped more firmly by the horns than Oasis I'd like to know who they are.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ TERENCE TRENT D'ARBY
TTD's Vibrator
Columbia 478505★★

DESPITE the new cornflake image and talk of a "rawer" sound, Terence Trent D'Arby continues to occupy a familiar patch of no-man's land somewhere between the over-sexed funk of Prince and the under-resourced retro-rock of Lenny Kravitz on his crassly-titled fourth album, *TTD's Vibrator*.

Despite his obvious talent as a singer, D'Arby's writing is still weighed down with an inordinate amount of egotistical baggage. But despite his poetic aspirations he sounds, more often, like a mercurial Jack-the-lad reeling off a string of chat-up lines on *Blind Date* ("I'm a match and you're kerosene", "You're so fine, what's your solar sign?", "Because of your sigh, the hours fly").

Beyond grouping his songs around the theme of love, D'Arby recognises few stylistic boundaries, and the album is a sprawling collection which exhibits patchy touches of brilliance. The best stretch is a Stevie Wonder-type balled called *Undeniably* which is linked to the Joni Mitchell-influenced *We Don't Have That Much Time Together* by a wonderful jazz instrumental passage featuring saxophonist Branford Marsalis.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Quentin Tarantino's period piece, a flamboyant French thriller, and a modern Romeo

John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson in *Pulp Fiction*, based on American crime fiction of the 1940s: wasted money drips from the screen but the stars keep us gazing

■ PULP FICTION
Touchstone, 18, 1994

QUENTIN Tarantino's films excite young filmgoers like no others. They offer bloodshed, zany behaviour, words of four letters, and a sense that life is just a movie writ large. This trilogy devoted to hitmen, boxers and Mr Bigs also feeds on America's lurid crime fiction of the 1930s and 1940s. A film far more bloated than *Reservoir Dogs*: wasted money drips from the screen in the set of a restaurant temple to pop culture. But the bravado stimulates, and the stars, from John Travolta to Bruce Willis, keep us gazing.

■ BAROCCO
Art House, 15, 1976

WHY does a French director choose for his film title the Italian word for baroque? Because, partly, he is André Téchiné, a critic turned film-maker with fancy notions; and because both plot and style of this conspiracy thriller are aggressively ornamental. Beyond cameraman Bruno Nuytten's wide-screen compositions and sumptuous colour, the film also boasts two big stars: a slimline Gérard Depardieu as a boxer with blackmail plans, and Isabelle Adjani as his girlfriend. Insubstantial, but enjoyably flamboyant.

■ THE PUNK AND THE PRINCESS
PolyGram, 15, 1994

ODD, engaging modern variation on *Romeo and Juliet*, set in London, with Romeo a punk in tartan trousers and Juliet a poor little rich girl stranded in Notting Hill. The leads, Charlie Creed-Miles and Vanessa Hadaway, make up in freshness what they lack in technique, and the free-wheeling style of director Mike Sarne (scarcely sighted since the debacle of *Myra Breckinridge* in 1970) keeps things gauche but lively. For all its faults, the film touches real feelings. Available to rent.

■ SAMSON AND DELILAH
CIC, U, 1949

NO REMASTERING of the print material can give Cecil B. DeMille's bibical extravaganza the sincerity and technical polish it never had. But humbug is all part of DeMille's appeal, and the fake battle between Samson and the lion in no way diminishes the film's entertainment. Victor Mature and Hedy Lamarr both excel at displaying their chests, though handling dialogue seems a problem. George Sanders amuses as the Philistine ruler.

■ WR: MYSTERIES OF THE ORGANISM
Connoisseur, 18, 1971

DUSAN Makavejev crowned his career as the agent provocateur of Yugoslav cinema with this wild foray into the sexual theories of Wilhelm Reich. Documentary material on Reich's work and America's counter-culture of the late 1960s is sliced together with a fictional story about a Yugoslav girl trying to spread Reich's gospel of sexual freedom to a mindless Russian skating star. The collage style now appears dated, though the film has not lost its power to offend: the video follows Makavejev's own edited version prepared for Channel 4.

■ SLEEP WITH ME
First Independent, 15, 1994

IN RORY Kelly's uneven first feature, LA friends party, play poker and suffer in love. A film full of trendy faces, including Tarantino, who babbles in one scene about the homosexual undercurrents in *Top Gun*. But the focus rests on Eric Stoltz, Meg Tilly and Craig Sheffer: their triangular love affair eventually generates sparks, though not enough to prevent the film seeming an assortment of scenes and smart lines in search of a reason for being. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

GERMAINE GREER'S PASSION FOR TENORS.
'PRIVATE PASSIONS' THIS WEEK REVEALS GERMAINE GREER'S LOVE OF THE HUMAN VOICE AND OTHER FULFILLING PLEASURES. TODAY ON RADIO 3. MID-DAY TO 1:00PM.

GARDENING

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q ***Five years ago I was given an offset of a pampas grass. It has grown well but produced no fluffy flowers. A neighbour says it has to be charred to make it progress. How is this done, and will it ever flower?*** — Joan Batram, Greenwich, London.

A Given full light and time, your pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) will flower. Small divisions can take a few years to build up to flowering, especially in dry, poor soils, so feed and water yours often to push it on. Charring refers to the quick way to tidy up the plant in winter by setting fire, briefly, to the old foliage. The time to do this is in January or February, and it is entertaining rather than necessary.

Q **I am moving into a second-floor apartment with a north-facing balcony. I want to have colour and interest all year round, and will set up a large trough of bedding and two containers for large feature shrubs for autumn and winter interest. Any suggestions?** — Jean Randall, Worcester.

A In your trough grow orange busy Lizzies, pansies and begonias. Try the pendulous orange *Begonia sutherlandii*, with trails of yellow creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia* 'Aurea'). You could add ferns, such as *Adiantum pedatum*, *Blechnum tabulare*, and golden-leaved *Dryopteris erythrosora*. Evergreen shrubs in pots will need as much light as possible during summer to keep them dense and well furnished, even if you pull them back under cover for the winter. Try, too, a pair of clipped box cones, or a male and female variegated holly. A small, arching bamboo such as *Fargesia murieliae* 'Simba' would look fine in a square tub. The tender *Azara microphylla*, in an insulated container, makes a delicate, ferny-leaved evergreen shrub, whose tiny yellow flowers in early spring have a vanilla fragrance. I would have bush ivy, too.

Q **We intend to pull down our house and rebuild it, but save as much as we can of the well-stocked garden. We are concerned about a 12ft by 6ft bay tree. Should we move the whole thing? Or take cuttings?** — A.E. and A. Birmingham, Blundellsands, Liverpool.

A At that size, bay (*Laurus nobilis*) is too large to move without professional help. It would be better to start again, either with a new plant or, if you have a sentimental attachment to the old one, a cutting. But the time to take cuttings, as semi-ripe wood, is late summer, by which time I assume building will be under way. On the other hand, after a hard winter, bay often dies back and then produces smaller stems in spring. See if there are any small stems at the base which have rooted into the surrounding soil, and might be replanted now.

● *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, previews the leading flower and horticultural shows

The horticultural show at Chelsea in May is one of the highlights of the summer, with 170,000 visitors. Many nurseries try to produce new varieties for their displays

Big shows break into bloom

For the next six months gardeners, nursery men and women, flower arrangers and a host of others will devote thousands of hours and pounds to entice and excite enthusiasts, who will flock to the big horticultural shows, to spend, spend, spend. Britain's biggest spring show is under way at Harrogate, Yorkshire. It started on Thursday and by tomorrow evening will probably have attracted more than 50,000 visitors. In a fortnight, the Malvern show in Worcestershire will draw more than 70,000 in three days.

Then come the summer big guns: Chelsea in May, the BBC *Gardeners' World* show at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in June, and Hampton Court in July. Their combined attendances will top half a million.

The decision by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1988 to limit numbers at Chelsea and introduce a pre-booked ticket system gave a boost to attendances at other shows, many of which start at about the same time. From a peak of about 245,000 in 1987, Chelsea's attendance is now fixed at 170,000, and young shows, such as Malvern (started in 1987), BBC *Gardeners' World* (1993) and Hampton Court (1990), all benefitted.

August's biggest show is at Southport, Lancashire, and is expected to attract about 100,000 over three days.

September sees three more heavyweight shows: the RHS Great Autumn Show at its Westminster Halls; Harrogate's Great Autumn Show and, for the first time, Malvern's two-day Autumn Show at the end of the month.

Interspersed with this programme are about 80 other shows nationwide, organised by the Horticultural Exhibitors' Association. Most are traditional flower shows, but some are agricultural shows, such as the Royal Bath and West and Royal Welsh, with a horticultural presence.

A handful of shows have the attraction of being set in outstanding gardens. These include the Great Garden and Countryside Festival at Holker Hall, Cumbria, in early June, and the Festival of Gardening at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, at the end of June.

The increasing attraction for visitors is the chance to see top-quality displays of plants, often including new varieties and, at many shows, visitors can buy plants.

There is usually much else: competitions for designed gardens, stands for garden machinery, ornaments, bookstalls and a seemingly limitless range of other goods and ideas which come under the enormous umbrella of gardening and horticulture.

But whether it is in the great marquee at Chelsea, or the cattle sheds at Malvern, the primary draw is the display of plants. This is reassuring when we are told by some professional designers that the contemporary British garden is too old-fashioned, and that in gardens of the future, plants may easily become a less important element.

The commitment of nurseries which take part emphasises the importance of plants. Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, which operates from a small walled garden in Hampshire, is a fine example. Established by Rob and Rosy Hardy, shows are an important part of the business, and they will attend 58 this season. Because they do not run a mail-order system, they can reach customers all over the country by going to such a large number of shows.

Specialising in perennials and small flowering shrubs, Mrs Hardy feels that the appeal for visitors to the shows is that they can see how to use and group plants and, in most cases, buy them on the spot. Chelsea is the exception, where people cannot buy until the last afternoon.

For the Hardys, Chelsea is the most costly to attend. Accommodation in London swells their costs to between £3,000 and £4,000, compared to between £500 and £750 for other shows. But, at Chelsea, they aim to sell up to 4,000 catalogues, producing income and a foundation for future business.

On a larger scale is another regular exhibitor, Burncoose Nursery, near Redruth in Cornwall. Last year it had one of the largest exhibits at Chelsea. It cost £26,000 to mount. This year's will be smaller but will still cost between £10,000 and £20,000. Charles Williams, one of the nursery's founders, says these costs are justified. Last year, Chelsea produced £30,000 worth of orders. Mr Williams also offers a mail-order service, and says the way he ensures success is to be seen at shows (19 this year). In addition, he estimates that cash sales at shows account for 10 per cent of the nursery's turnover.

With the presence of nursery exhibitors, visitors to shows are guaranteed a feast of top-quality displays throughout the summer.

The buys could include one of the new varieties that nurseries try to produce — usually at Chelsea. The Hardys will be unveiling a selection of new lavender varieties. Burncoose's revelations will include new lilies and two new delphiniums, including pink-flowered 'Barbapinik'.

The successful appearance of the new plants will partly depend on the right conditions to bring them to their peak at a show. But one of the delights of gardening, even for the professional, is the element of uncertainty and dependence on the weather, which sharpens the achievement when it all works out perfectly.

Show dates

Harrogate Spring, April 20-23 (0171-821 0132 or 01423 561049).
Malvern Spring, May 5-7 (01684 892751).
Chelsea, May 23-26 (0171-393 4696).
Holker Hall, June 2-4 (015395 58838).
BBC *Gardeners' World*, June 14-18 (0121 767 4333).
Hatfield House, June 24-25 (0181 547 1566).
Hampton Court, July 5-9 (0171-344 4444).
Southport, Aug 17-19 (01704 547147).
RHS Great Autumn, Sept 12-13 (0171-828 1744).
Harrogate Great Autumn, Sept 15-17 (01423 561049).
Malvern Autumn, (Sept 30-Oct 1 (01684 892751).

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Thin out seedlings of early-sown hardy annuals.*
- *Harden off plants of half-hardy annuals in a frame, ready for planting out at the end of May.*
- *Ensure that all staking and tying up of tall border perennials has been completed, or prepared.*
- *Trim fuschias and root the good cuttings in a potting mixture.*
- *For early runner beans, sow seed in a box in a cold frame. Protected at night, they should will be ready to plant out in May.*

Gardens to visit

☐ **Chenies Manor House, Chenies, Buckinghamshire (01494 762888).**

In Chenies village off A404. M25 junc 18. Open April-Sept. Wed, Thurs and Bank Hols, 2-5pm. £1.80, children 90p.

Elizabeth Macleod Matthews's early summer display is a "must". The formally compartmented one-acre garden, given structure by clipped hedges and topiary of yew and box, is in keeping with the Tudor architecture of the house. The centrepiece of the display is the sunken garden, which contains many of the garden's 5,000 tulips, whose colours should be at their peak over the next week or two. The tulips are planted in generous clumps, with wallflowers behind and forget-me-nots in front. The forget-me-nots include the striking, deep blue 'Ultramarine'. Among the numerous tulip varieties are the scented, pink-flowered 'Angelique' and the late-flowering 'Marilyn', which is white with a strawberry line. Part of the skill in the planting is how the tulips make blocks of colour between the emerging foliage of hostas and alchemilla, and later-flowering perennials, such as astrantias and campanulas.

☐ **Stillingfleet Lodge, Stillingfleet, Yorkshire (01904 728506).**

Seven miles south of York, via A19 and B1222. Open tomorrow, 1.30-5pm; May 14 and June 25, 1.30-5.30pm. Wed afternoons in May and June, 1-4pm. Nursery: April 1-Oct 18, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10am-4pm. Garden £1.50, children free.

Vanessa Cook's nursery, burgeoning with perennials, and the adjacent garden around the attractive Yorkshire farmhouse, make a compulsive attraction. She holds the National Collection of pulmonarias, and tomorrow they should be at their best. The collection is arranged in a square area divided by stone paths, but there are other pulmonarias throughout the half-acre garden. Water drips from an old metal hand-pump into a stone pool beneath a large, white-flowered *Clematis armandii*, and a *C. alpina* 'Frances Rivis' enlivens a golden philadelphus with its mauve flowers. *Viburnum burkwoodii* 'Park Farm Hybrid', with clusters of pink-flushed flowers, the yellow-flowered perennial wallflower 'Harpur Crewe' and epimediums are examples of the garden's riches.

Chenies Manor House sunken garden

☐ **Dorothy Clive Garden, Willoughbridge, Staffordshire (01630 647237).**

Seven miles north of Market Drayton, on A51. Open April-Oct, daily 10am-5.30pm. £2.60, children £1.

This garden had a romantic beginning. In 1940, Colonel Harry Clive began the woodland garden, which covers about an acre and a half in an old quarry, to give his invalid wife, Dorothy, somewhere to walk. After she died in 1942, Col. Clive continued its expansion and planting and, after his death in 1963, it continued under the Willoughbridge Garden Trust, which he set up. The garden designer John Codrington has worked on parts of the garden. The whole, eight-acre garden is on a south-facing slope with acid soil. Beneath mature trees, the quarry garden is planted with rhododendrons and azaleas, with bluebells covering the ground at this time of year. On one side of the quarry, water cascades over a waterfall made in 1990. In the main, sloping area of garden, grass paths wind between large beds and expand into areas of lawn. The range of plants, from perennials or bulbs, is absorbing. One of the best areas lies towards the car park at the bottom, where a simple wooden gazebo overlooks a scree garden made on a steep slope which drops down to a pond.

G.P.

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From the tropics to the greenhouse

Sara Driver on the gardener who sets the trend in conservatory plants

Jean Henkes knows how to put plants to sleep. Having made slits in the base of each stem, he applies a potion whose ingredients are a closely guarded secret. Its effect is to stop photosynthesis within 48 hours. Pores in every leaf close up, trapping water inside, and the plant goes into hibernation.

M. Henkes, a Belgian landscape architect, is responsible for selecting and supplying all the tropical plants which flourish under the vast glass domes in 14 Center Parcs holiday villages around Europe.

It is not a question of poring through glossy catalogues. Two or three times a year M. Henkes sets out for the tropical forests of South America, Asia or Africa, where he scours their darkest recesses for new specimens. Armed with a microscope and small specimen pots, he makes a study of rainfall, light and temperature. Only when M. Henkes is satisfied that a plant can survive in Europe will he carefully dislodge it from the ground. Whether it is an orchid or a 250-year-old *Pandanus utilis*, great care is taken to preserve as much soil as possible around the roots. The plant's ecosystem — *the micro-organisms, pests and insects which devour the pests* — will play a vital role in its health.

Before being shipped to Europe, the *newly* comatose plant is encased in plaster. Only the roots remain free. Needing neither food nor water, plants, some of which weigh more than four tons, can survive in this state for up to eight weeks. On arrival they are revived with another undisclosed potion and transferred to gigantic greenhouses in Holland or Belgium. There, every plant is given between a month and a year to acclimatise to the seasonal light in Europe and to the constant, balmy 29C it will encounter by the pool in each dome.

More than 5,000 tropical plants from 800 different species are selected for each holiday village. At Longleat, M. Henkes has re-created a Burmese wood; at Elvedon, the theme is a South American tropical forest; and in Sherwood Forest, a small replica of the Florida Everglades *is separated from English* oaks by a layer of glass.

Only environmentally safe sprays and organic feeds are used *at Center Parcs and, if there are no natural predators to pounce on* pests, *these can be purchased through specialist companies.* It is *essential to select the right species* because, *for instance*, a *ladybird* from Europe will turn its back on a bug from Brazil. The soil, a rich mixture from Belgium, is checked and gradually replaced over the years. All pruning and replanting is carried out at night while guests are sleeping. It can take five to six years for transplanted flora to acclimatise sufficiently to start flowering again and, until then, *colour is supplied by orchids dotted among towering green leaves.*

Trade *in endangered plants is* monitored through a licensing system by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and M. Henkes says he does not uproot a plant if it is a protected species or if there are fewer than 100 in the vicinity.

M. Henkes believes that Center Parcs often sets a trend in its selection of plants, and cites the example of *Licuala grandis* or the ruffled fan palm. This view is echoed by the Horticultural Trades Association, which says: "*Licuala grandis* was originally only found in aristocratic homes but now, with the increased number of conservatories in this country, and possibly its use by Center Parcs, the plant has become much more popular in recent years."

Plants, such as the ruffled fan palm, are given between a month and a year to acclimatise to the balmy heat by the Center Parcs pool

TIPS ON TROPICAL PLANTS

- Soil should be 30 per cent clay with a pH of 5.5; fertilisers need nitrogen (18 parts), phosphorus (20) and potassium (21).
- Use 1.2 litres of water per week *for each square metre of leaf surface. The water temperature should be around 25C.*
- The greenhouse temperature should be between 15C and 25C, but can drop to 10C in winter.
- For pests, spray a soft soap mixture on to leaves once a month.
- Once a month, leave plants out in the rain.

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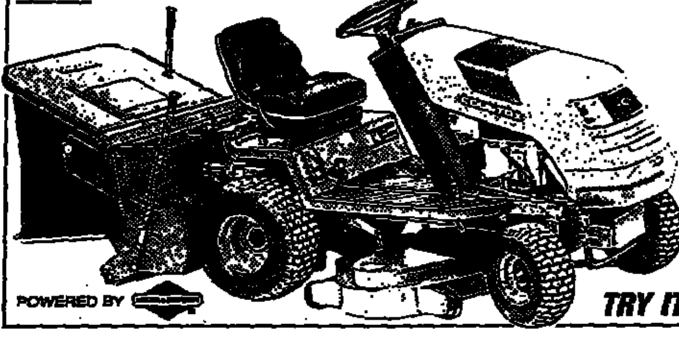
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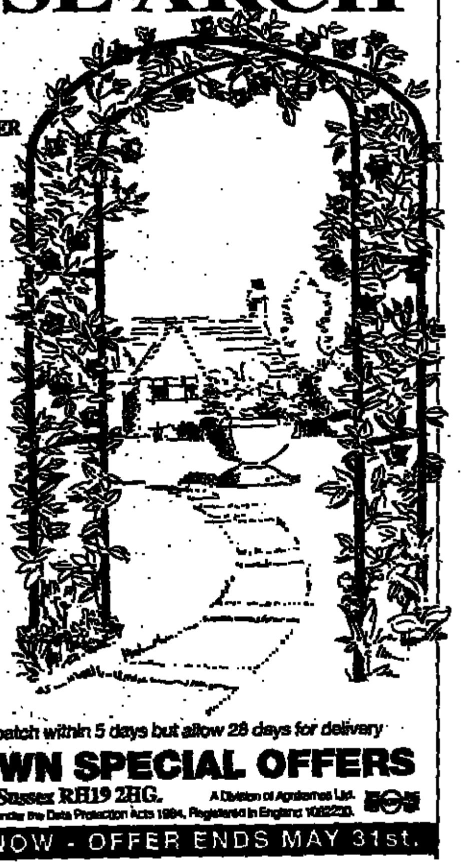
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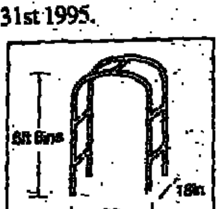
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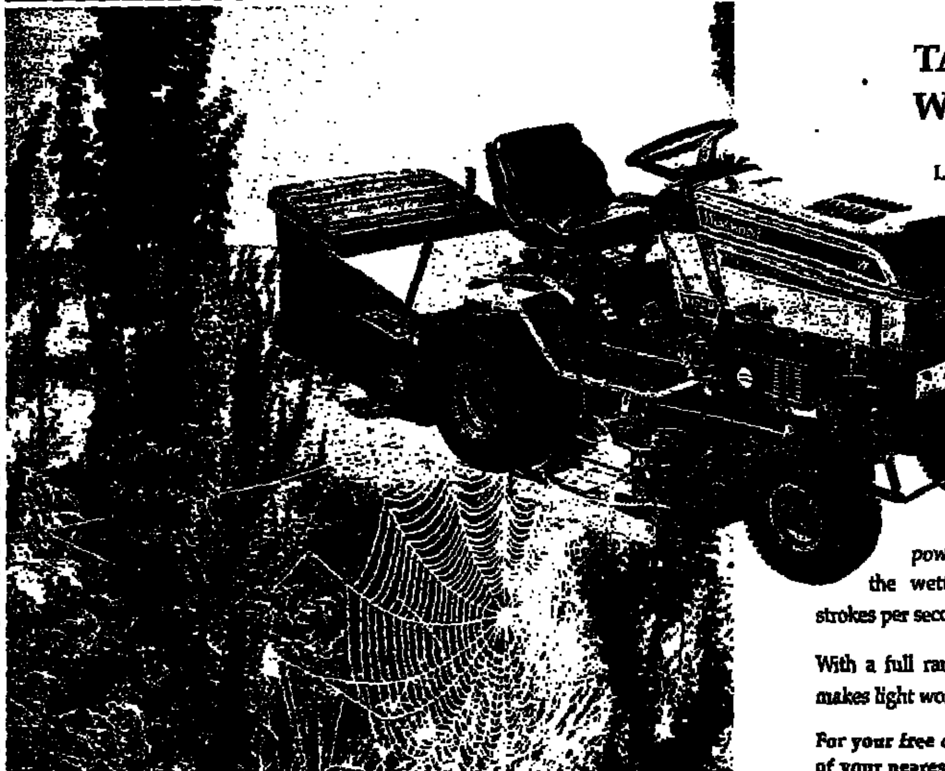
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FULHAM SW6: Bishops Park. Bright spac. 3 bed hse S facing gdn. c £250K 0171 381 3846

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0171 482 2012

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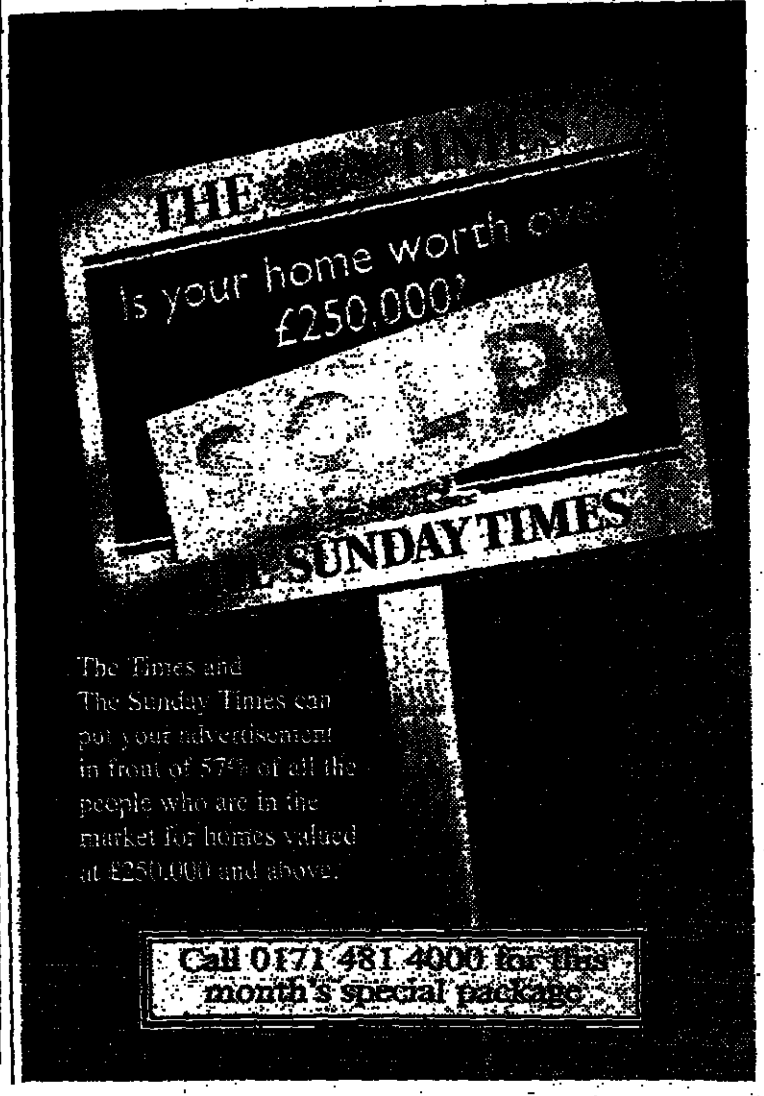
CONTINUES ON PAGE 15



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Sense and sensibility have a place in a large Sussex house that could have come straight out of a Jane Austen novel, with its pedimented façade, porticoed doorway and classic proportions.

Yet the £400,000 show house, at Rookwood Park, Horsham, Sussex, is new. It belongs to what its builder, Berkeley Homes, calls "a new generation of country houses" — houses that are traditional in design to appeal to the sensibilities, but have the practical good sense of the new: low maintenance, high insulation, and a choice of finish.

Set around a village green, Rookwood Park offers a selection of period architectural styles, from thatch and Sussex barn to Georgian and Queen Anne, each in plots of one-third to one acre. Prices start at £270,000, but seven of the ten houses were sold before the development was launched.

The demand for upmarket period country houses has remained buoyant despite the recession, and there is now a market shortage. Competition has forced buyers to consider a new home instead, and builders are responding by giving them what they want — period-style homes with five bedrooms, three bathrooms, at least three reception rooms (with working fireplaces), and a conservatory, all set in mature grounds.

Developer Paul Knapfield builds such houses as "one-offs", including the Regency-style house at Coleshill, near Amersham, Buckinghamshire, which he built as his own home. "We made the details ourselves, using local craftsman," says Mr Knapefield, the managing director of Eastglen property services. "But we imported Italian marble for the hall and bathrooms, and brought mature trees from Italy for landscaping. The house had to look like the real thing. We didn't double-glaze the sash windows because it was important to get an authentic feel."

At Bray, Berkshire, Berkeley is building a £1 million Victorian-style mansion on the banks of the Thames, boasting a boathouse, triple garage, turrets, gargoyles, bays and gables. At Cholmeley Grange in Highgate, north London, the company has recently completed a £1.2 million Edwardian-style mansion, complete with picture rails, deep skirting boards, architraves and open fireplaces. It is the only property left on the development — the other ten were snapped up immediately.

This country house at Rookwood Park, Horsham, Sussex, is not as old as it looks — it was built this year, and is now on sale for £400,000

The demand for period-style homes is not confined to the southeast. Crosby Homes has several small prestige developments, including Woodcote Grange at Prestbury, near Macclesfield, where two £500,000 Lutyens-style red-brick houses, each set in half an acre, are being built.

"We usually sell the first three houses on a development before we've laid a brick," says David Atkinson, the sales director. "It gives buyers flexibility — for example, we can put in Aga cookers as extras. The first floor is cast from concrete, giving structural freedom for whatever room sizes are wanted upstairs, and interior walls are block-built for better soundproofing."

Bryant Homes has its own "Country Homes" developments in the West Midlands, Cheshire and the Home Counties. "Business has been good at the upper end of the market because fewer houses are available in the £300,000 to £500,000 price range," says a spokesman.

Jonathan Haward, of the County Homesearch Company, Truro, Cornwall, says: "Last year, people competed for older properties. For example, a house in St Mawes, Cornwall, on the market for £500,000, drew three buyers. The purchaser finally paid well over £600,000. Then there was the client who wanted a £500,000 listed house, but the surveyor said that maintenance of windows, roof and rendering would cost £20,000 a year. Some people want less hassle. There's a huge demand for old rectories but there is a shortage, and the appeal of quality new homes is increasing."

Lt Col Bill Clayden and his wife, Edwina, swapped old for new when they moved to England from Jersey to be near their four sons. "I retired in 1993 and we couldn't afford the upkeep of our large Victorian house any longer. It had no damp course, a leaking slate roof, and dry and wet rot. I'm just glad we're not there this winter," Mr Clayden says.

"We particularly wanted a country house in a village setting near Salisbury, but finding one was not easy. We engaged County Homesearch, Winchester, which showed us a neo-Georgian house with five bedrooms, three reception rooms and three bathrooms, that was being built in half an acre in the village of Middle Winterslow. The house is built from reclaimed bricks, which makes it look older, and there is even a Georgian-style false window. We could choose the kitchen we wanted.

"The Adams-style fireplace was carved from reclaimed wood and the bannisters were made by a local cabinet maker. We have oil-fired central heating but have only used 600 gallons — costing £360 — in the year we've been here, thanks to cavity insulation; we used more than 1,000 gallons in Jersey, but we were still cold. I like to think we have combined the advantages of an old place with those of a new one."

Joan and Julian Fall turned to County Homesearch at Abbots Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire, when they traded down from a large period house in Kent. They wanted something more manageable, in a village setting, but thought they would only get the room sizes, ceiling heights and character they wanted in an old house. The company found them a £265,000 house being built from reclaimed bricks and Welsh slates at Whiteparish, near Salisbury.

"Our brief laid down a number of stringent requirements and, at times, we despaired of finding more than half of them in any one house," Mr Fall says. "Now, we have found everything we want."

CHRISTINE WEBB

- *Berkeley Homes: 01932 853455; Bryant Country Homes: 01865 883555; County Homesearch: 01872 223349; Crosby Homes 0161-928 9516; Eastglen 0171-713 1544; Rookwood Park sales office: 01403 211230*

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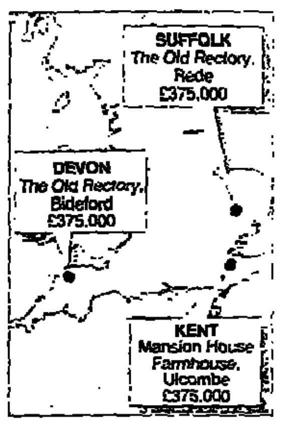
about £375,000



Devon: The Old Rectory, Littleham, Bideford. Former rectory in 14 acres of gardens and parkland. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms, dining room, sitting room, drawing room, billiards room, kitchen and cloakroom. Coach house/garaging and workshop. About £375,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 01392 423111).

Kent: Mansion House Farmhouse, Ulcombe. Grade II listed Georgian farmhouse in 3.5 acres of gardens and paddocks. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), three reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, lobby and cloakroom. About £375,000 (GA Town & Country, 01622 765241).

Suffolk: The Old Rectory, Rede, near Bury St Edmunds. Victorian former rectory in five acres. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom and cellar. About £375,000 (Bidwells, 01284 767338).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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A detached former coach house circa 1906 with a secluded, west facing 85ft walled garden. 3 beds, bath, recep, conservatory, kit, parking. Freehold
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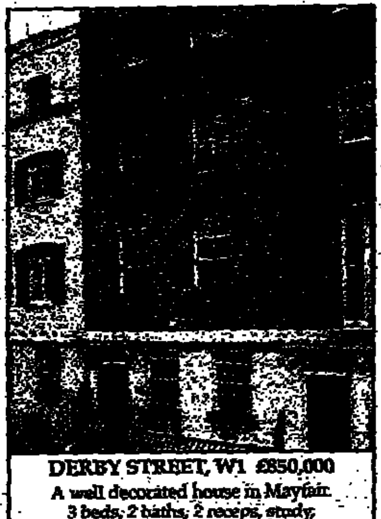

DERBY STREET, W1 £850,000
A well decorated house in Mayfair. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, study, conservatory, kit/b'fast rm, west facing roof terrace. Freehold
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WANDSWORTH, SW18 £375,000
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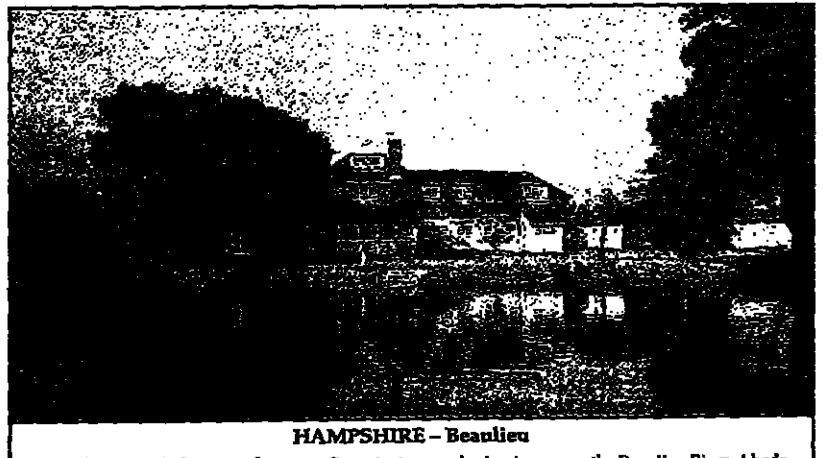

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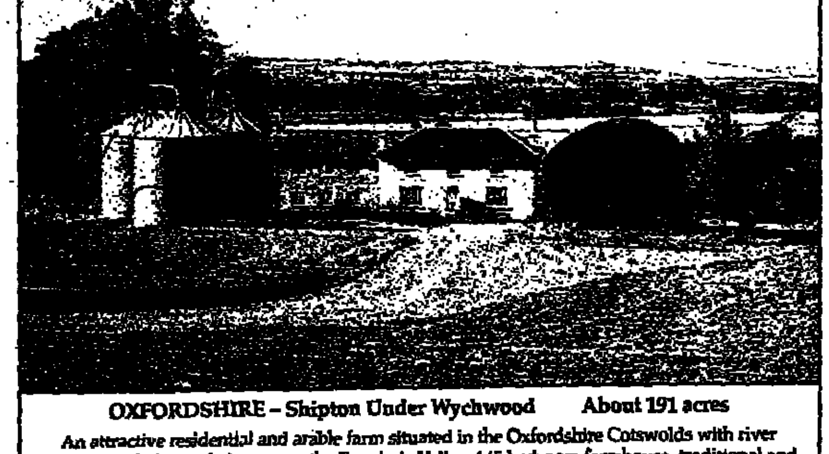

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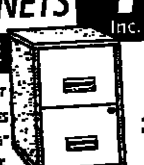

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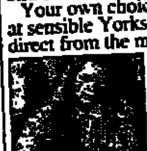

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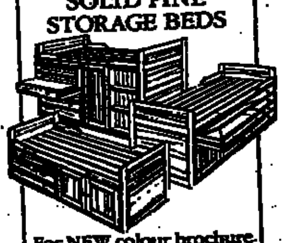

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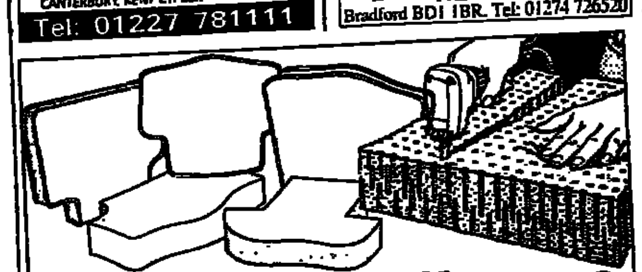

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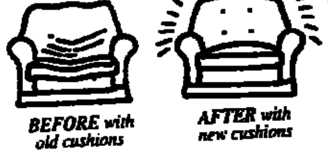

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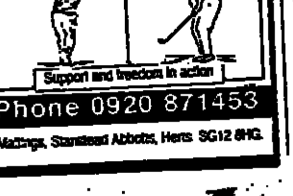

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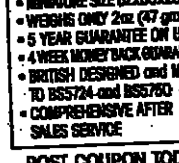

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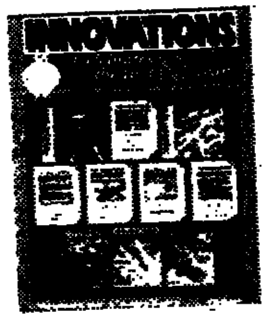

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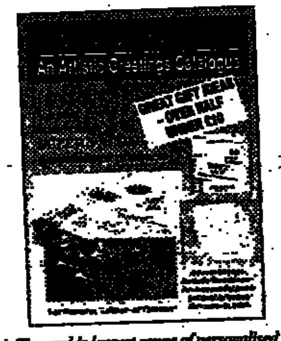

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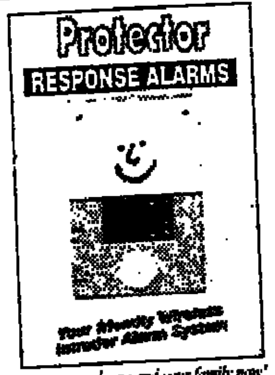

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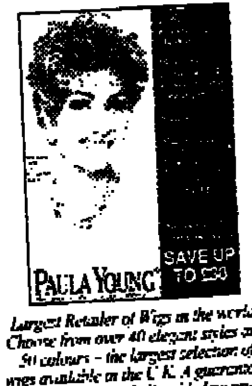

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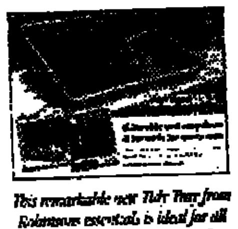

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WEST SUSSEX male, 28, nonsmoker. If Heaven is a place on Earth it would be in the shade of a tree on a gorgeous summers day with bacon sandwich, cup of tea and Sunday newspapers at the ready - and hours to kill. Looking for bright eyed, fun to be with female to share in such pleasures. Please Reply to Box No 5568.

LADIES

ALL else has failed, big, bonny northern lassie 39, professional, seeks big handsome Northern laddie, 40s, professional for courtship, love and permanent relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5782.

AMERICAN in London? An attractive blue-eyed English blonde (30) would like to meet you. I'm successful, confident yet warm and sensitive with a zest for life and seek a dynamic professional soul-mate (32-42) this side of the Atlantic. Photo preferred. Complete discretion assured. Reply Box No 5604

AMUSED/Amusing theoretically solvent divorcee late 40's wonders are there any unattached straight man London /Cotswolds who enjoy opera/theatre /art/travel/food but not fanatical golf/bridge/politics /religion? n/s. Reply to Box 5593

AN intelligent attractive creative caring slim 5'8" continental widow, London based, young 51 seeks similar gentleman for serious loving relationship. Letter & photo app. Box No 5640

ARE you tall, attractive, sophisticated, successful solvent businessman, unpretentious, open, with no ties or hangups, cleanshaven, medium to wellbuilt, socially aware with a hint of sensitivity, appreciates quality of life, assertive but not domineering, have presence & personality, your feet firmly on the ground, know exactly where you are going & what you want from life. Between 45 & 52 max. Home counties & M1 corridor based. If so reply to this unattached, very attractive, slim, shapely, sophisticated n/s, intelligent brunette in her 40's without ties or hangups who is successful & solvent. Recent photo & phone # must. Please Reply to Box No 5695

ARE you 45 to 60 yrs, average looking, over 5'8", perhaps Public school or graduate. I am early 40s, occasionally smoke, 5'4", WLTM you London preferably. Phone no. photo essential. Plse Rply Box 5707

A serious search for an emotionally, perhaps physically, solid, mature, independent-thinking, educated and sensual man, age 45-50ish. Offering loving relationship with slim, attractive, relaxed late 40's graduate working mum. Photo if possible. Realistic radius Sheffield. Please Reply to Box No 5494

AT last I've had the courage to leave "The World's Favourite Airline" and now have time to devote to making new friends or finding a companion. I'm attractive, tactile, fun loving and fit. I'd love to meet someone similar. I enjoy all the usual things but especially travel, sailing and entertaining. You should be in your 40's or 50's preferably in the London or South Devon area. Please enclose a photograph and I will reply. Box No 5702

ATTENTION all you professional gentlemen! A curvy, bubbly professional 56 yr old lady seeks someone to share her love of classical music, theatre, wining & dining & perhaps bridge & tennis. Photo appreciated. E/W Midlands. Plse Reply Box 5400

ATTRACTIVE educated woman(49), elegant and feminine, seeks successful English or Continental man, early 50's in Manchester/Cheshire area for stable relationship. Travel /residence France/Spain /Italy eventually desired. Box 5682

ATTRACTIVE (no, really) slim, successful with homes in Dorset and London, enjoys theatre, movies, music, dining, seeks n/s happy honourable handsome single man 32-42(ish) for fun and romance. Send photo and details to Box No 5713.

ATTRACTIVE gentle, kind lady. Sussex based. Slim, 5'7", stylish, 40, N/S. Happy and placid disposition. Varied interests. WLTM a kind sincere and discerning gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 5545

ATTRACTIVE female 47, self employed, n/s, unattached WSOH & intelligent. Hoping to meet similar male who is kind and also looking for friendship and love. Wales & SW probably. Plse Reply to Box No 5626

ATTRACTIVE slim, blonde, divorced, Welsh speaking graduate, 35, living in mid-Wales WLTM discerning prof man who enjoys theatre, walking & travel. Plse reply Box No 5479

ATTRACTIVE Japanese lady mid 30's, cultured & sporty professional seeks educated professional gentleman for long term relationship. London. Photo please to Box No 5618

ATTRACTIVE Nottm lady 26 seeks male early thirties with prospects to share the good things in life. Photo guarantees reply. Plse Reply Box No 5544

ATTRACTIVE vivacious educated well travelled lady 50's, many interests seeks gent to share her life. Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 5601

LADIES

ATTRACTIVE lady 49 Cheshire based without ties seeks solvent gent for travel and excitement. Photo please to Box No 5481

ATTRACTIVE blonde, 2 arms, 2 legs etc. seeks single 30 something man. London. Box 5755

BEAUTIFUL slim young early 50s ex-diplomats wife, originally from the Orient 5'5½" prof seeks n/s European with intl background 48-62, 5'11"+, secure, kind, prof. Box 5593.

BEWITCHING vivacious professional blonde, slim attractive creative, wide interests, music, theatre, travel seeks intelligent, warm, humorous, Jewish soulmate 55+. Plse Reply Box 5605

BRIGHT interesting men and women unattached 30+ invited to supper parties in a country house in Berkshire Day 01753 860840 Even 01628 73375.

BUBBLY, warm, caring, attractive graduate. Interests include music, theatre, travel, country pubs, good food and wine seeks professional man (50-60) for cultivated relationship. Plse Reply Box No 5572

BUCKS-based woman. Prof. Youthful mid-40s. Lover of Arts (esp. music), sun, France, countryside and quality. Seeks optimistic generous-hearted good looking man with whom to share adventures and love. Reply with photo plse Box 5691

BUSINESS lady 30's, personable, independent, single. Does all usual activities. Confident enough to do them alone but would prefer company. Are you a n/s not looking for immediate relationship. Manchester area Plse reply with photo to Box No 5621

CAMBRIDGE based professional woman, 34, Oxford graduate, 5'8", witty and attractive, enjoys countryside, theatre, horse-riding, travel and good food: seeks thoughtful, humorous man 28-40. Photo please. Please reply to box No 5746

CARING, professional woman, 51, London-based but flexible. Interests Greece, Rome, Dublin, literature, humour, young people, seeks caring man 50-60ish. I still want to change the world. Do you? Reply, with photo, to Box No 5548

CHATELAINE wants chateau. Seeks nobleman of rank and fortune. She has classic beauty, grace and wit. He will be handsomely exceptional, under 65 with a rich and varied past. Debrettes entries only. Please Reply to Box No 5549

CHEERFUL ridiculous and naughty sense of humour, loves racing, riding, sailing, skiing and summer balls, seeks like-minded male 35-50. Please Reply to Box No 5438.

CHRISTIAN 51+, is it me you seek? I am so lovely, fair, I wait to see IS 62-1-5 and PS 84 fulfilled. Here I am 0-007E 52-47N. Find me. Box No 5475

CLASSICAL musician 39, tall, curvaceous and single. A good cook, lousy swimmer WLTM a music loving professional between 40 and 50. GSOH & n/s who lives within reasonable distance of Peterborough. Please Reply to Box No 5425

CURIOUS, creative, lady (38) rudely fit, in healthy mental & physical condition, imagines man, dark, dramatic, intelligent but ridiculously humorous; for passion and protection. Please Reply to Box No 5277

DUSKY Italian maiden (Australian born), 32, 5'6" with superb figure and matching smile. I have an adventurous spirit, enjoy art, theatre and tennis and seek a 30-40 yr old solvent man with noble physique, kind heart, humour and style to enjoy la Dolce Vita. London /Home Counties. Box No 5625

EAST ANGLIA. Lively attractive slim blonde of 48 who enjoys life is in need of good male company to complete it. Photo please to Box No 5579

ELEGANT Parisienne, resident London (20 years), tall, slim, attractive, 40+, graduate. Successful professional career - seeks cultured, considerate professional gentleman, 45-60 to share travel, the arts, stately homes, antiques, history, eating out and maybe more. Box 5684

ELEGANT lady, late 40's seeks affluent male for exciting times. Cotswolds. Box No 5761

ENGLISHWOMAN, arts graduate, still slim, fit and attractive at 50, seeks cultured, unattached Asian gentleman for East-West rapprochement. London/Home Counties. Please reply to Box No 5694.

EX-OPERA singer, attractive lady with much to offer in SE England. WLTM educated n/s animal-loving gentleman, 60-70s. Box No 5718.

EXOTICALLY attractive tall brunette, intelligent, 20s, n/s, well educated seeks male, prefer Scandinavian or American, well educated, n/s, aged 28-38, for friendship which could develop into a relationship. Interests include, travel, theatre, cinema, keep fit, walking, alternative health and music. Please Reply Box 5756.

EXTREMELY attractive, fair haired, well spoken lady 31, 5'8" wishes to meet Public School professional man, Midlands interested in country pursuits, theatre, dining. Photo please to Box No 5674

FEMININE warm cultured lady, attractive GSOH, love of arts, independent, social WLTM tall solvent prof man (50-60) in SE to share laughter, affection and more. Please Reply with recent photo to Box No 5391

FIT & sporty very attractive, petite female seeks healthy, wealthy, trim professional male for togetherness, fun and whatever life has to offer. Me 32, you 28 - 37. North Wilts based. Photo ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 5751.

FRANCE warm hearted, attractive English woman 50. Paris based enjoys arts, music, countryside, travel WLTM stimulating n/s man 50's + who spends time in France. Box No 5763

FUN 40ish prof. Lancs. lady, cheerful, curvy, self-reliant but informal seeks worthwhile single guy aged 40-55 to enhance a busy social life. Interests incl golf, bridge, theatre, dancing & archaeology. No old ruins need apply! Box No 5586

FUN loving 40's. Professional female seeks company of urbane, intelligent gentleman to share laughter, interesting conversation and cultural pursuits. S.W. London. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box 5430.

FUN, 40's young outlook, attractive, Pub. Sch., likes tennis, skiing, sailing, entertaining, travel. Homes Shrops/SW seeks tall intelligent romantic 50+ male for perm relationship. Box 5595

GOOD-LOOKING, living, and loving golden girl. Educated professional, semi-retired. WLTM gentleman with Conversation ability & golden voice. North E Midlands Box No 5705

HELP No men in the staffroom. Tired teacher (OFSTED victim) raffish, slimmish, youngish (43) needs sound or better man for rejuvenation. Photo app. N.Lon. Please Reply to Box No 5743.

I am attractive, sophisticated, alluring, slim, blue eyed, continental, romantic, 40 something. Your 30 something, well built, well mannered, educated, TALL and fun. Photo essential Essex/London. Box No 5586

IF you love the arts/country, are single and want someone who's hesitant about columns like these, contact me 34, attrac. blonde, slim, 5'10", n/s, S. West. Photo app. Box 5450

INTELLIGENT pretty female designer seeks unattached funny romantic male 32-46 to share next weeks lottery winnings and much more! London area. Please write with photo to Box No 5665.

INTERESTING times to share with independent (own home, car, caravan) 62 yr old female Observer of life in S.W. Mids? Express your interests by Post. All mail answered. Please Reply to Box No 5749

KATHARINE ALLEN. "The highly respected marriage bureaux" (The Independent). 18 Thayer St. London W1M 5LD. Tel: 071-935 3115

KENT/Sussex. Attractive, sensual, vivacious, smart lady seeks professional 47+ gentleman 6'+ with zest for life. Photo preferred. Box No 5485

LADY 50, 5'2" would like to meet civilised English gentleman companion (dry sense of humour) to share summer holiday, Europe or U.S. Please Reply to Box No 5575.

LEONINE lawyer, 40, tall, elegant, n/s, graceful, brunette with eclectic tastes seeks charming, educated, cultured, professional gentleman 43-50, medium build, South Hants area for perfectly symbiotic relationship - no wimps, insolvents, or emotional cripples. Informative letter with photo ensures reply. Box No. 5416

LONDON age 52, professional, not bad looking & very fit woman, 5'4", not rich but solvent, many interests inc. plants, animals, arts. WLTM fit n/s unattached well balanced creative smartly casual gent, pref. Taurus or Capricorn, pref. not too tall. No picture thankyou, I prefer the real thing. SEA ensures reply. Box No 5753.

LONDON based but heart in the Highlands. Successful freelance writer, forties, wants to meet active, adventurous, unconventional man Reply to Box 5439

LONDON based, youthful upper fifties lady. WLTM single, warm, professional gent of similar age, for love and laughter. Please Reply to Box No 5440.

LOOKING good at 45! Very attractive Somerset professional lady, fair, slim, fit, n/s. WLTM attractive male 40-50yrs. Photo /letter please to Box No 5468

LOVELY feminine graceful damsel, long raven tresses, 5'8", 48, missing TLC, sun, laughter seeks travelled, cultured man 6'+, 52+ of wit & integrity. South/Sth East. Box No 5898

MEET attractive, sexy women at London singles' parties. MEET 'N' EAT 071 629 5534

MIDLANDS 50 something, 5'5", attractive, sparkling, happily divorced lady with zest for life but without dishwasher, who loves sport-esp golf, music-esp opera, travel-esp abroad. WLTM genuine, caring, taller man to help fill the gaps in her life. Photo app. Box No 5726

MOST attractive well spoken Pub Sch educated lady 34, 5'4" wishes to meet similar background professional man, single interested in the arts, theatre etc. Reply to Box No 5639

MUSICALLY dyslexic. N. London Lecturer (44), tall, fair-haired, erratically eclectic in taste, constant to Theakstons, E. Brontë, labradors and the intellectual, wants to fo to R. Scotts, R. Academy or whatever with recognisably human, intelligent male, over 5'8", genuinely under 50, who would enjoy some female company. Informative letter with photo ensures reply. Box No 5703

NICE looking, healthy widow, 73, nice house South Coast, WLTM unattached gentleman in Surrey, 75 plus, in similar circumstances for friendship, companionship or marriage. Please Reply to Box No 5290

OOMPH filled man wanted by vivacious, artistic, sensitive, baggage-free London blonde, 38. Photo please. Box No 5349

ORIENTAL lady, 30's, 5'6", attractive, kind, gsoh, well-educated, London based, seeks quality gentleman Box No 5051

OVER 50s! Gentlemen in the Midlands looking for stylish and sophisticated women Elite Introductions' special offer for 14 days, we have over 250 ladies waiting to meet you, call for appt 0121 386 3444

OXON-based, affectionate, slim, n/s, divorced woman, 45 years, graduate, professional career; loves countryside, books, classical music; seeks similar man initially for outings/friendship. Please Reply to Box No 5681.

"PLACES to go - things to do - people to see." Creative lady looking for soul mate (male) interested in the arts, countryside, travel etc. 58-68 to share happy, laughing, times! Please reply to Box No 5546

PRETTY petite bubbly 35 yr old lady WLTM attractive white professional single gentleman 30-38 for fun, romance, love & travel. Photo app. London /Surrey. Reply to Box No 5627

PRETTY professional 48 slim 5'6", warm, tactile, fun, n/s seeks slim & Arts loving male. Photo. SW Herts. Box 5567

ROMANTIC athletic very attractive blond in her forties. Looking for a man to share candlelight moments, and who would pay her million dollar mortgage. Box No 5666

SENSATIONAL ex-model, pt mother of two, independent, 39, n/s, sporty, 5'8", slim, GSOH, selective WLTM handsome affluent fun-loving man. Photo plse London. Box 5662

STUNNING Home Counties lady, 32, with two delightful children seeks attractive, caring, professional man, under 45 to share this and many more summers. GSOH a must. Photo appreciated. Plse Reply Box No 5744

TALL attractive, successful director, 30, with good sense of humour, outgoing personality, too busy to find Mr right seeks down to earth man of similar type. London based. photo appreciated. Box 5692.

THIS immature, lively 45 yr old, London based, attractive, blue-eyed brunette still wants to have fun! I'm vivacious, intelligent and independent but WLTM a 6' and over hunky guy aged 43-50 who enjoys sailing, keeping fit, good food, wine, music and is looking for a partner to have some fun with. Recent photo plse to Box 5704

UNPRETENTIOUS Surrey lady 51, 5'7" slim, not unhappy but missing the pleasures of friend/lover relationship seeks kindred man. Box No 5746

VISITING Bahrain? Need an attractive intelligent female dining companion? Box No 5482

42 year old divorced Cumbria lady, loves countryside walking, art & good food, seeks non-smoking, solvent, prof/business male for companionship and fun. Plse Reply to Box 5651

YOU'VE weathered the storm, brushed yourself off, and ready to take your chance again. Maybe with me, it's worth a try! I'm v.attractive, mid 40's, 5'6", green eyes, emotionally stable. I enjoy town and country life, long Sunday lunches full of talk and laughter. I admire gentleness and loyalty. Summer is coming - wouldn't it be great! Are you intuitive enough to reply? Photo please - London/South West. Please Reply to Box No 5404

GENTLEMEN

ABLE athletic, handsome, n/s, mid 40s seeks that special someone to care for, cook for and caress. Write to me, photo ensures reply. (London). Please Reply to Box No 5575.

ABSOLUTELY well-proportioned in body/soul. Personable divorced Retd. Dir. with zest for life, seeks lady young 60s. N/S, financially secure, personable, attractive, comfortable casual /smart wear, feminine, warm, passionate, reads Tel/Times, occasional poem, loves/cooks good food, aware of pleasures of cuddles, physical/Platonic pursuits on beaches, countryside, believes in life after work/divorce or whatever to cloud 99 & beyond. Robert Brown said: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp - Or what's a Heaven for? How true. Interested/serious? Plse write + recent photo + phone No. Box No 5644

ACADEMIC/Writer, tall, attractive, young mid 40's, affectionate, kind, good fun, energetic, no ties or emotional baggage seeks intelligent, attractive, positive and passionate woman up to 40 who likes country walks, wining and dining and travel, for romance and sincere relationship. Thames Valley based Photo please. Plse Rply to Box 5634

ACCUSED of being 'a romantic' by friends, sincere, sensitive, 60 looks 50 feels 40 young at heart, honest, mature, solvent, 6ft Taurian businessman, widely travelled, Divorced - no children, loves sailing, animals, antiques, good cook, enjoys entertaining, conversation, listening. WLTM much younger, elegant n/s lady, GSOH & dress sense to share interests - all types of music on best hi-fi in W. London, concerts, more serious TV/films, cinema, card playing, dancing, superb food & wine, country walks, gardening. You would be fun loving, sharp witted, confident, looking for committed, loving relationship with view to more? I've never done this before. Recent photo essential. Box No 5653

ACTIVE gentleman, 53, single, 5'11", sincere, considerate, well educated, N/S, own business, seeks to share happiness, fun, music, travel, W. Coast of Scotland, with an attractive younger lady, perhaps a widow. Brief note, tel. No., photo welcome/returned. Cen. Scotland, visits Tyneside/Cheshire /Surrey. Plse reply Box 5758

"- - - A flask of wine, a book of verse and - - - thou?" I'm young 54, male, divorced, no ties, prof, humorous, solvent, available for permanent commitment. You're younger, attractive, articulate, good natured, want to share happy, contented life in W. Isles with amiable companion, partner, friend. "Paradise?" It could be! Please reply to Box No 5706

A Lover/Friend/Confidant sought by intelligent, professional laid back but organised guy, 38 independent, unconventional, genuine, optimistic, deep, good listener, naturally monogamous but appreciates personal space. Interests - too numerous to mention - write to find out! Ideal lady - intelligent, sweet natured, possibly career oriented, slim, feminine, stockinged. South based, but will travel for that special lady. Photo a bonus. Please Reply to Box No 5709

ARE you slim, educated, well-spoken, 40's, n/s, no ties, solvent, cosmopolitan? Fit Englishman, young 60's, yacht, house in Spain WLTM YOU. Photo & long legs plse. London /anywhere. Box No 5410

GENTLEMEN

AM I seeking the impossible! Roman Catholic Male Solicitor 35, seeks tall slim lady with traditional values to share holidays, sports, walking, the country. You like me may have own practice/business and would not normally consider answering this ad. Cheshire based. Plse Rply Box 5538

ARE you unhappy? A prisoner of convention or neighbours? Then escape & start a totally anonymous new life in lovely house with solvent scribe (60) whose arms would enfold you protectively and even cook gourmet meals for you if you are fun, medium solvent, thin or skinny, crave the quiet life & willing to play Bridge. Photo essential. Box No 5611

ARE you slim and attractive, a professional 25-36 n/s and, above all, very female? If you enjoy the odd drink, lots of cuddles and having fun, you've got the right ad! Me - well I'm 37, VGSOH, 5'10" slim/fit and successful. I enjoy wining/dining and sport/travelling. Drop me a line - photo plse (returned) W. London. Box No 5655

ARTICULATE, amusing, presentable London professional, 39, cultured, Jewish seeking attractive, presentable, active and interesting, entirely uncommitted lady, max 33. Photo & phone essential. Box No 5563

ATTRACTIVE amusing prof bus hunk 44 poss like to be a Dad! Wishes to share his excellent lifestyle with younger attractive capable female who seeks a soulmate, much fun and uncontrolled romance. Photo appreciated. S.England. Box No 5684

ATTRACTIVE male very successful intelligent and warm, who enjoys a high standard of living. London S/E based. Seeks caring sincere, attractive lady aged 30-38, to share the finer things in life. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5646

ATTRACTIVE MEN early 40's, single, prof, ex Pub Sch on my party guest list - outnumber us. I'd be delighted to speak to attractive career women, 30's, interested in joining us. Patricia 0181 392 9009 Wknds/eves

ATTRACTIVE? - search me! able to make you smile? - you bet! Well off? - OK. Aged? - mid 50's. Lonely? - Crusoesque! You? - If 50 miles Brighton please write Box No 5654

ATTRACTIVE, tall, professional 32 year old. WLTM witty, intelligent lady 28-35 interests - travel, theatre, countryside, etc. London/Home Counties. Plse rply with photo Box 5643

ATTRACTIVE, successful, well-educated, caring prof man, 32, London-based, into independent travel, sailing, seeks similar female 24-32 Nationality unimportant. Photo plse Box 5735

ATTRACTIVE doctor, 38, GSOH, wide interests seeks attractive female to nurse away those blues. Race immaterial. Photo essential. Box No 5739

ATTRACTIVE slim, caring lady (40/50) sought by fit divorced male (50). London/SE. Letter/photo plse. Box No 5738

AUSTRALIAN Guy 39 years old in London on business soon would like to meet ladies 25-45. Phone 00 61 416 230 937.

BACHELOR 56 involved in the film business in London - LA seeks attractive preferably tall lady 38-48 interested in travel and more. South London area. Photo etc please to Box No 5637

BEDS/Bux Retiring director WLTM lady 52-62 to share English house and Med cruiser. Please Reply to Box No 5390

BUSINESSMAN 54, 5'11", medium build, reasonable looks, n/s, no ties, many interests, very well travelled, GSOH, intelligent. WLTM feminine, good figure, intelligent, sincere, no hangups, no ties lady for together future. No snobby, big headed, gold digging leaches of the type advertising opposite Photo/address essential and within sensible distance of Bournemouth. Box No 5754

BUSINESSMAN tall, average build, 40's, good looking, intelligent, enjoys travel, dining out, rural style life WLTM attractive, cultured, intelligent lady 35-40 n/s with similar interests. Photo please to Box No 5698

CAMBRIDGE is no Raintown, but an alternative view From the New World to Dvorak's? Perfect Gent. 28, enjoys sport, travel and life, seeks genuine lady 20-30 to build special friendship, and Dignity. Please Reply to Box No 5689.

CHAMPAGNE, caviar, casinos, Royal Ascot etc. If this is your style and if you're elegant, sophisticated, 38-48yrs based London/South Please Reply to Box No 5432 Photo essential.

HIPPY Heart professional mid 40's Central London into Zen and salsa WLTM lady willing to practice. Plse Reply Box 5422

CASHMERE-VOICED smiling, 6'2", bald good looks, vital, sincere, kind n/s, prof man 56, rebuilding life, modestly solvent. Values independence but needs best friend & lover to share laughs, hugs, pillow talk & mutual lust. If you're bona fide baggage free & live near West Lon: plse write + photo & tel. Bonus for fairly slim yet curvy with big eyes! Box 5366.

CHANNEL Islander, 58, 6ft, with style, substance and sex appeal (!) seeks slim, intelligent, attractive lady for a summer of weekends at the cricket racing, theatre & Cotswold pubs. Based So'Ton, Cheltenham and Oxford when over Box 5643

COMPANY Director, 38, 6', blonde, v good looking, affluent, professional, no ties. Successful own business and lifestyle to match. Seeking partner to enhance and share my life and lifestyle. You 28-38, physically very attractive, wild GSOH and successful career. Lady golfers who are not 5 handicap most welcome! Photo essential. Essex/ Suffolk/ London. Reply Box 5719

CONGENIAL Man, mid-fifties, graduate, seeks warm and witty lady for cultivated pursuits and much mutuality. Beds/Bucks preferred, but open to persuasion. Plse Reply to Box 5426

COSMOPOLITAN bon-viveur, sportsman with wide ranging interests, would like to spoil and cherish witty, fun loving and sporty London based lady up to her 50s who enjoys opera, concerts, theatre and eating out. Please Reply to Box No 5716.

DEVASTATING Debonair Dynamic Banker 43 with really naughty dark smouldering eyes seeks stunning special vibrant angel 30's for joint salvation from soulless London life!!! Letter/Photo to Box No 5617

EXCEPTIONAL, slim, fit, n.s. fun-loving early 60's prof male seeks attractive slim, stylish & easy-going independent 43+ lady for romance/travel etc Sth East. Photo essen. Box 5640

6', fit intelligent prof male (36) Berks based Unpretentious, caring and travelled. Enjoys sport, art, food and good friends. Seeks attractive n/s lady, 27-37, to share concerts, picnics, spring days and romantic interludes Photo plse Reply to Box No 5537

FULHAM man 30 Professional into sport, London life, country weekends, eating out & the flicks. Hoping to meet attractive (Blonde's pref) lady 25-32. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 5505

FUN-loving adventurous mid 40s gent, interests include travel, dining out, entertaining at home, skiing etc would love to hear from attractive like-minded caring, independent lady who feels comfortable eating fish and chips in the paper on Whitby Harbour or caviar looking at the city from Windows of the World. Friends say bordering on the eccentric. I prefer individual. Photo and phone number please to Box No 5415.

GENTLEMAN fit, active, medium build, 6', young 50, ex rugby player, G.S.O.H. seeks special lady, age and nationality not important, for genuine relationship. London area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5428.

GOOD looking and active 39 year old divorced lawyer (no children or emotional hangups) seeks slim, very attractive, bright and younger female to bring the zest and sparkle back into his busy but balanced life. Nathalie LeLievre look alikes particularly welcome to apply! London or South East area preferred. Recent photo apprec Please Reply to Box No 5710

HAMPSHIRE coast (but will travel) professional fit tall male 48 gsoh n/s considered good looking and very affectionate interests in music, art prefers 1:1 to clubs seeks similar woman for social or romantic activities. Plse Rply Box 5699

HANDSOME Dubai entrepreneur, nearly 50. Interests include desert driving & parties, horse and camel racing, the beach, cosmopolitan socialising, travel, keep fit, swimming. GSOH seeks attractive, slim, sophisticated n/s career minded lady 30-40 who loves travel, write with photo to Box 5474

HANDSOME Christian professional, young looking 44, excellent company, well travelled, sporty. WLTM lady in London Area Box No 5667

HEATHROW based prof man 38, intelligent, humorous, solvent, no ties WLTM sincere caring lady 27-40. Photo please. ALA. Please reply to Box No 5616

KEEN Golfer also loves music, the arts and East Anglia. I am 62, 5'8" divorced, fit and solvent. Any trim ladies 55+ who would like to share lifes back nine. Please Reply to Box No 5742

I need romance in my life! Life without sharing is boring. Investment banker 40 divorced needs elegant sophisticated soulmate 30-40 to embark upon a perilous journey i.e a happy relationship Photo preferred. Please Reply to Box No 5583

INTUITION is the key. If it's important to you too then please reply. I am 35, English, dark features, good-looking. I love the fjords, log fires, good design, faithfulness, to love and be loved. South Please Reply with photo to Box No 5731

KENT male professional (30s 6'0", quiet disposition, enjoys skiing, travel, WLTM caring uncomplicated, female Photo plse Box No 5473

KENT/Sussex border Ret Co Dir. Tall, handsome, gentle 70's n/s WLTM brunette widow 60's 60's for cuddles. TLC Photo please & tel no. ALA Please Reply to Box No 5672

LACONIC likeable lawyer (48) looking for lissom lyrical lass for lifelong love and laughs Please Reply to Box No 5492

LADY, would you like a Gent to charm and love you forever? Tall, affectionate & sincere 42 year old would love to hear from you. Photo please - ALA Any area 'a' genuine Box 5692

LANCASHIRE LAD professional, medium build 6'0ish, fit 48 amiable and sincere, interests include outdoor pursuits, gardening, serious music, seeks to meet sincere lady 35 plus Photo appreciated. Box 5740

LIGHT knight with slightly dented armour (36) and trusty, if ageing, charger seeks favour of insubstantial damsel (not necessarily in distress, but with excess of local ogres) PhD (Perfected harassing Dragons?) but bored with solitary tilting at technical windmills Can't promise fairytale ending enchanted castles have mortgages - mayhap adventures on quest? Full chronicle on receipt of thy illuminated manuscript. Box No 5661

LONDON-Successful businessman, 40, tall, slim, amusing, great company, wide interests. First Class lifestyle looking to share it with good-looking, stylish, bright, affectionate girl, 27+ who enjoys herself, people, arts, travel & looking like me for a lasting relationship Photo & phone appreciated Box 5628

LONDON-based Glasgow grad 31, kind, gentle & romantic, seeks Cinders to spark loving relationship. She need not be perfect, just honest, caring, n/s, single and minus 1 shoe! Cobbled reply to Box No 5536

LONDON-Yeovil train, Easter Friday, early pm, girl in green jacket & white trousers with violin case, reading The Times, standing, plse contact Box 5896

LONELY family minded, early 50s, privately educated professional man, lover of the great outdoors, especially the sea, wishes to meet an educated cultured and full of fun lady 35-50 photograph essential. Please Reply to Box No 5444.

MUCH travelled 56 year old British businessman now based in London would like to meet elegant and unattached lady view to long term association. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 5670.

OXFORD Graduate, wife sadly died aged 34, daughter 14, seeks rather shy Establishment girl, probably 25-35, n.s., who would value the extra love of somebody old enough to be her father. Village life, theatre, travel. Cautious telephoning first Plse write Box No 5436

PAKISTANI Hospital Doctor, sunni muslim, Punjabi, 6' tall, slim build, late 30's, never married. Highly qualified, cultured and well educated, multiple and varied interests. WLTM a suitable female for marriage. Please Reply to Box No 5648

POLITICALLY incorrect Oxford Grad, 31, seeks female aged 18-33. Possession of any of the following would be a distinct advantage: Pouty lips, long hair, Nottingham accent, A/AA cup bra, a love of Sainsburys and loud music Box No 5659

PROFESSIONAL guy, 40s seeks fun loving, lively female 20s-30s for caring friendship & shared interests (travel, theatre, sports etc.) Box No 5678

SUGAR Mummy required. No previous experience necessary. For successful businessman whose good fortunes have gone into reverse. I am good looking, late 40s with all working parts. I don't smoke and I enjoy a good time. Please send photo and full CV to Box No 5712

TALL, good-looking, professional male 32, seeks attractive female member of the Bar, under 30, for romance and world travel. Photo please. Box No 5649

TEST Match? Prof man, 37, slim, sporty, sincere, sardonic, spiritual, sympathetic. Seeks easy going n/s lady for London friendly that could end love all. Please Reply to Box No 5647

TIMES reader sought as soulmate for mobile W.Mids 60+(+) widower (6' fit, solvent but not affl.) She must, like me, be slimmish, gentle, caring and also a quietly assured n/s. For walks, talks, books, music and more (French hols?) Go on, be brave, count to ten and write; then if agreed, meet for coffee/lunch via Box 5382

TRAVELMATE sought by attractive retired, n/s, 56 yr old for car journey/holiday France & Spain next October Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 5569.

WITTY single graduate 30's, sensitive, caring, slim, fit, genuine, seeks similar female Yorks /nearby preferred Box 5396

YORKSHIRE based professional gentleman (36), amusing, sincere and secure, who is content with both the humdrum and the exciting WLTM that elusive special lady. Are you the one? Plse Rply to Box 5696

24yo seeks very feminine lady 40+, for fun and friendship Please Reply to Box No 5475

YOUNG at heart, retired, divorced gentleman Ex-SAS Regt. Interests - dangerous sports, adventure, travel, the arts and the good life. WLTM chic, slim, unattached lady. GSOH (you'll probably need it) for romance, friendship or whatever. Race, colour, creed immaterial. London, south preferred Photo appreciated. Reply to Box 5437.

GAY, discreet, thoughtful (44) Oxbridge/Ivy League, WTJ seeks one well-bred, honest, intelligent professional for quality, mutually supportive happy-ever-after realistic relationship Box No 5547

PROF, male, 28, B'ham based, n/s, 5'9", dark, handsome, cultured, intelligent and refined, with romantic, tender-hearted 'big baby' type personality, seeks a lovely young lady with traditional values, a heart of gold, but also a good brain - view to romance! Photo preferred, but ALA - from anywhere! Reply Box No 3169

PROFESSIONAL, black, Christian gentleman divorced, 47yrs old, tall & handsome. Interests, music, concerts, wining & dining Seeks attractive lady, between 30-46, any nationality for friendship. London /Surrey Reply to Box No 3294

SPIRITUAL Libra lady 32-42 with style anywhere sought by romantic Leo with GSOH no ties and a taste for life Please Reply to Box No 3226

STAFFS /Midlands prof Attractive, fit, active, slim, young 50 gsoh seeks similar female 35/45 view to romance /holiday. Please Reply to Box No 3161

SUCCESSFUL Parisian 36, attractive, tall, n/s, intelligent, romantic, sincere, passionate, stylish. Interests food, wine, skiing, travel Seeks genuine attractive, professional /executive successful lady 30-48 for lasting romance Photo please London/country Box 3150

SOULMATE, lover & partner ideally you will be, as I am, discerning, aware, 45+, in London, with no ties, non-smoking, tallish, slim and good-looking. If you value intellectual, sexual and emotional rapport and are unwilling to settle for mediocrity, please reply with photo. Box No 5145

SOUTH HANTS widower, early 60's, tall, slim, fit and solvent Enjoys music, theatre, walking, wine and conversation, to name just a few! Seeks the company of a sincere lady with an outgoing personality and sense of fun and adventure for friendship and sharing life's pleasures.Reply to Box No 5201

SPORTY and cultured executive from Scandinavia (30's). Likes travelling, outdoor life, music and dinners Looks for natural, straight forward and humorous 25-35 lady for friendship and who knows. Photo. E.Anglia Please Reply to Box No 4988

SURREY based retired professional 6'1, slim, good looking WLTM active lady 60's, n/s who loves tennis, walking and travel. Able to relax by a log fire, play bridge and enjoy entertaining. Photo please & tel no. to Box No 5070

VERY Good Looking well-travelled, successful business man, 50, 5'9", caring, romantic & living in the countryside (nr. Warks/Worcs border) seeks a beautiful & stylish, well spoken, refined lady, 35-45, who is romantic, caring, tender & loving. Someone very special who can share varied interests from good music, dining out, to log fires & country pursuits and a close, loving relationship. Photo please.Reply Box 5149

V GOOD-LOOKING 6'2" tall, slim, well bred charming man, 40's enjoys sport, travel, history, the arts seeks kind attractive spontaneous female 34-42 with integrity, to love forever. London/anywhere. ALA.Photo app. Reply to Box No 5232

GENTLEMAN 70+ healthy active affectionate seeks similar gentleman 66ish living alone under 20 miles Cambridge to visit, hope close mutual friendship Box No 4989

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Slim, kind & pretty?
I am 43, caring, romantic, OK looking and have my own house, business, yacht etc. but haven't yet found the right girl to share my life with. If this could be you, why not take a chance and reply. I promise to reply to all letters. Photo would be appreciated.
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BOOKS

NEW IN PAPERBACK

■ OLEANDER, JACARANDA
By Penelope Lively
Penguin, £5.99

At the centre of this memoir of a lonely colonial childhood is Lively — a beady-eyed observer of flora, fauna, family, visitors and natives in Egypt. Such events as the annual visit of the snake-charmer or a glimpse of de Gaulle in his dressing-gown, are recorded with an intensity beside which the desert, the empire, or the war, seem secondary. Lively captures the atmosphere and enigma of a vanished time.

■ MALCOLM
By James Purdy
Serpent's Tail, £8.99

First published in 1959, this fantastical story of an innocent's bewildering adventures in adult society mixes melodrama, suggestiveness and zany comedy. A beautiful boy sits on a bench, waiting eternally for his father. He meets in swift succession a mortician, a midget, a billionaire, and a burglar, before marrying an American chanteuse. Dorothy Parker loved this dizzy novel.

■ LAND GIRLS
By Angela Huth
Abacus, £5.99

It is October 1941 and three land girls arrive at the Lawrence's West Country farm: scholarly, Cambridge-educated Ag, Surrey girl Stella, and sex-mad Pru. Huth's pleasant, undemanding novel follows their friendship through the war as they buckle down to farm work and start growing up. There are no real surprises in the three main characters but Huth is good on the rhythms of long marriages, like that of the Lawrences, and on the texture of life in rural wartime England.

■ THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PETER SELLERS
By Roger Lewis
Arrow, £9.99

To protest against Arabs residing in his favourite hotel, Sellers led a goat into the Dorchester announcing that he was going to kill and barbecue it in his bathroom. The mischief, though amusing, is equally indicative of the monstrous egotism that blighted the great actor's private life and spread across his (frequently poor) films. This fierce account of "twisted greatness" is often suffocatingly personal, but it is also wickedly funny and unflinchingly candid.

■ IRISH JOURNAL
By Heinrich Böll
Minerva, £6.99

Travelling across Ireland with three children and two women in the mid-1950s, Böll found a place where it was possible to play truant from Europe and the shadow of war. His delightful journals consider everything from tea-drinking to the movies, from priests to poverty. He notices the cheapness of the "devotional industry", relishes Irish humour, and has troubling visions of history as flotsam. Every page is a gem, full of warmth, wisdom, compassion and amusement.

● *Alison Burns, Hazel Leslie, Jake Michie*

Nigella Lawson on a many-sided heroine bearing a 1950s hallmark

Woman's ways

■ SPLITTING
By Fay Weldon
Flamingo, £14.99

The splitting of the title of Fay Weldon's newest novel denotes more than one kind of rupture: as in split up and split-personality, that's to say divorce and the fragmentation of the self. Angelica, betrayed and abandoned by her husband, copes with this rejection by involuntarily developing a multiple personality.

This is to state the case inappropriately baldly: in fact — or in fiction — our heroine flowers into a multiplicity of characters, and the true business of the novel is their interaction with each other.

This can jar. It reads at times like a pastiche of that familiar finger-jabbing, incessantly apostrophising style, the prose that plunges within moments from the staccato to the whirringly whimsical.

Even the cover is arch: emblazoned under the uppercase title, are the italicised words "How many women can you fit into one body?". But then, Weldon stopped writing in her own style and started parodying it some years ago.

Splitting, for all that, is a jaunty enough read: it has a definite, interest-awakening momentum. Even when she irritates, Weldon never bores, and there is something admirable in that confident fidelity to her own way of seeing and defining the world, the way she puts her stamp on it.

There is something of the fable about this book. Not quite a fable for our age, maybe — for Weldon's age, her golden age, is really a couple of decades or so ago. This is not to say that she is out of date exactly, but she is a period writer; she summoned up a time. Although she's meant to be young, our heroine, in all her manifestations, bears the hallmark of 1950s-reared womanhood: embattled, frightened, whiny and inclined towards bolshie self-pity. The contemporary reader who is nearer the age of the protagonist might be rather inclined to wonder at the alimony-hunting histrionics and to hiss at the heroine, through grated teeth, to get a grip. Luckily, by the end, she does. As, characteristically teasingly, does Weldon.

Land's End, an engraving by William Daniell, from *A Voyage Round Great Britain* (Spellmount, £25). David Addey has retraced the Victorian artist's steps from Sheerness to Land's End and reproduces the same views in watercolour

The bite of Britain's best short stories

■ NEW WRITING VOLUME 4
Edited by A.S. Byatt and Alan Hollinghurst
Vintage, £5.99

■ RACONTEUR 4
Edited by Graham Lord
Raconteur Publications, £4.99

THERE is no need to look any further than the covers of these volumes to work out the difference between them. *New Writing 4* has a stylish Albert Irvin abstract, and the serious names of its editors prominently displayed; *Raconteur 4* with a yellow medallion and bold black type shouts: "You can win £10,000 for a story!"

And story is what they mean. No tricks, please. Nothing too abstract — most of the tales found in this volume could be described as yarns. Some of them are jolly good, too, despite a lesser effort from William Boyd and a tale by the late James Herriot that does his memory no justice.

But the top prizewinner's tale, *Crossing the Glacier*, by Berlie Doherty, doesn't look at all bad next to a William Saroyan rerun, *Little Caruso*. *Across the Water* by Katherine Roberts and *Hello . . . How Might I Help You?* by Chris Bertram both have bite. But perhaps the most enjoyable is Beryl Bainbridge's essay on short fiction in which she argues for stories with a beginning, a middle and an end, and praises Poppy Z. Brite because "her sentences are short and to the point and make one see pictures."

A. S. Byatt's definition of good writing is perhaps broader than this, but she does decry the modern writer's obsessions, despairing at a fictional "world in which most of the action was penetration either by the penis or the knife or the needle, where everything dripped with blood or other fluids."

No Poppy Z. Brite here. This is a strong, varied collection, including, as *New Writing* always does, short fiction, novel extracts, poetry and essays. This volume is, as Alan Hollinghurst promises, "almost wholly unpredictable". It is nearly impossible to pick out themes or patterns, but it is worth noting the number of pieces concerned with war or exile — particularly strong is the pairing of Christopher Hope's essay on the former Yugoslavia with Stephen Gray's bitter *Formerly*.

The dead, as Hope remarks, "are bad nationalists", and their non-partisan ghosts haunt this volume, from Andrew Motion's poem *Europa: A Fragment* to the shard of Joan Michelson's novel, *Reconstructions from a Dutch Childhood*.

It is a pleasure, at the cusp of the millennium, to find British writing so outward looking. *New Writing 4* is a reassuring signpost on the path ahead.

ERICA WAGNER

Boy George's private life was spectacularly at odds with his cuddly image

Oh Boy, what a contradiction

■ TAKE IT LIKE A MAN: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BOY GEORGE
Sidgwick & Jackson, £15.99

At the height of his fame, Boy George famously told *Woman* magazine that he would rather drink tea than have sex. It was a typical Georgian riposte — arch, knowing, outrageous. For, as this candid and entertaining autobiography shows, George was anything but celibate: he had an intense, often fractious, relationship with fellow band member John Moss, as well as a chain of random encounters with unknown men he picked up in bars or night clubs. He was indeed sexually voracious, confessing here to being a "lust-driven creature" for whom sex was "the ultimate fix".

But this secret life was something about which he never spoke in interviews, fearful that he might alienate his thousands of teenage fans and the Radio 2 audience that he and his advisers had nurtured so meticulously.

This meant that his public image was spectacularly at odds with his private self, the self that was living fabulously and wildly, gorging on drugs, food and sex, trashing hotel rooms and brawling with friends.

So when, in 1986, *The Sun* broke the story of his heroin addiction, his admirers were astonished to learn that cuddly, androgynous, sexually abstemious George, so comfortable swapping jokes with Terry Wogan and Noel Edmonds, was, in fact, a sad, broken man.

Born into a poor Irish family in south-east London, George O'Dowd's rise was as swift as it was unexpected. Impatient with convention and bored with suburbia, he sought solace on the London club scene, mixing with designers, starlets, eccentrics, DJs, drag queens — anyone on the move, anyone influential.

He moved through this closed world with swaggering self-confidence, buoyed by the certainty of his success. By his own admission he was exotic, demanding and brash, but he was also naive and easily hurt. Many pages are devoted to the memory of broken love affairs and petty jealousies.

Yet for George and his many homosexual friends this really was their time, their *belle époque*, before Aids laid waste to so many of them. One suspects that for all Boy George's current flirtation with vegetarianism and mysticism, those days really were the happiest, and most creative, of his life. Certainly, he has never since come close to matching those first sublime songs that he wrote for Culture Club.

JASON COWLEY

Maggie Hamand won the first One-Day Novel competition last year with **The Resurrection of the Body** (Michael Joseph, £14.99), a compelling, impressive tale about religious belief, whose opening sequence — the interruption of a church service on Good Friday by a man dying of stab wounds — sets the tone.

Set on an island off Brazil, Joao Ubaldo Ribeiro's **The Lizard's Smile** (André Deutsch, £15.99) incorporates lush descriptions of tropical scenery, even lusher descriptions of sex, an ecological theme, corrupt politicians and murder. A typical Latin American novel — and none the less enjoyable for that.

Amanda Brookfield's likeable thirtysomething heroine, Jane, in **Walls of Glass** (Sceptre, £16.99) leaves her selfish husband to embark on the single life, discovering that, with two small children and no job, this is harder than she imagines. Things go from bad to worse when her ex-husband, now remarried, tries to take their son away from her; but Jane finds an unexpected ally in her moodily attractive brother-in-law. A perceptive — and very readable — account of the strains of marital breakdown.

Full Whack (Hamish Hamilton, £14.99), by Charles Higson, is a nasty, brutish and (mercifully) short novel concerning the chequered career of Dennis Pike, a small-time crook trying to go straight, despite the efforts of his former associates, the Bishop brothers, to turn him back to a life of crime. Moments of humour and slick, Amis-esque *aperçus* alleviate the cartoon sex and violence of the rest.

CHRISTINA KONING

A murder leads to a tangle of family relationships

Bee in a spider's web

■ BORROWED TIME
By Robert Goddard
Bantam, £15.99

ROBERT Goddard is the sort of writer publishers hate to love. He is an accomplished writer who, for the best part of a decade, has been on the "sure to be a mega-seller" lists without getting there.

The trouble is that having one's prose compared to Daphne Du Maurier rather than, say, Jeffrey Archer is a backhanded compliment in the blockbuster business, despite being an infinitely greater literary tribute. In Goddard's case it is also accurate. *Borrowed Time* is an elegant piece of writing, a thriller in the classic storytelling sense: more *Rebecca* than *Red October*.

In his craftsmanship and approach, Goddard might be considered an English Patricia Highsmith. But it is the exceptionally English character of *Borrowed Time* which is so refreshing in a genre dominated by transatlanticisms.

The hero, Robin Timariot, a Brussels Eurocrat inspired to desert by the call to save his quintessentially English ailing family firm, finds that a chance meeting with a beautiful woman on a windy ridge in the Welsh borders changes his life. But not in the way he might have hoped. Within hours of their parting, she is found raped and murdered.

Although Timariot is never a suspect, his evidence leads him to be drawn into the investigation, caught up in the dead woman's family relationships like a bumble bee in a spider's web. Against the high drama of the investigation and trial, the shoddy dealings that threaten the Timariot family business form a sub-plot that plays a crucial role in binding the two strands.

This is a book about fate and fatalism, about the consequences of action and inaction, about human blindness to the chain of events we unleash and how we are often the victims of our own folly. A hugely enjoyable read. But I am not sure it will put Goddard on the best-seller list.

PETER MILLAR

Want to write a novel?

Lynne Truss on writing her first book

IF we are to believe the author profiles on television, writers approach their novels in a variety of tried and trusted ways — with Tempo pens, chapter plans, thematic development, starting at the end and working forwards.

When I started my first book, a highly plotted comic novel about the demise of a gardening magazine, I bought myself a greeting card featuring a man reclining on a sofa, with a cat on his middle. The caption said: "Fred could feel a novel coming on."

Ho, bloody ho. I bought it as a joke, obviously. But later I couldn't bear to look at it. In my experience novels do not "come on"; they are acquired by the writer every day madly swinging a pickaxe in the dark and dislodging tiny bits of stuff, the value of which is ultimately a matter of opinion.

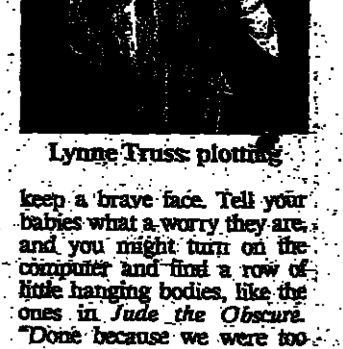
The work! The anxiety! When I started, I thought chapter plans were a groovy idea; I thought a scheme for the whole book might be neat too. I still think so. But unfortunately the only way I could write was to take each sentence as it came, and see how things developed. "You hum it, son; I'll play it," I said.

It sounds fun to make it up as you go along. You keep adding characters, messing them about, and then you stick the whole thing in an envelope marked "Novel. For immediate publication." But of course it is not fun.

Whenever people asked "How's the book going?" I would give them a warning flash of eye-white and then bite them. "What an ingenious plot!" people said afterwards. And I laughed carelessly, "Really? I'm so glad."

My friend Ann thought I'd planned it all with file cards and cross-references. But this novel was built on fear, cemented by paranoia. My second one is progressing in the same harrowing fashion. The fear is that having built up comic situations, there may not be a comic denouement.

Being a novelist, it turns out, is like parenting — you must make everything turn out well for other people, and keep a brave face. Tell your babies what a worry they are, and you might turn on the computer and find a row of little hanging bodies, like the ones in *Jude the Obscure*. "Done because we were too menny." How could you live with yourself after that? How?



Lynne Truss: plotting

● With One Lousy Free Packet of Seed *(Penguin, £5.99) is published in paperback on April 27*

Spell of a witch report

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

THE passion and conflict of children's friendships often make adult loyalties look tame. This theme is well explored by Ann Turnbull in **No Friend of Mine** (Walker, £3.99) in which two boys transcend class divisions to form an ill-fated bond in Thirties England.

Turnbull includes plenty of period detail to fascinate boys of ten upwards — as does Mildred D. Taylor in **The Well** (Gollancz, £9.99). Here, racial tension becomes unbearable for the family of a black farmer in Mississippi in the early 1900s — the story is tightly told in the voice of an eleven-year-old boy.

Nearer home, eight-year-old Katie in **The Witch Repair** *by Marianne Macdonald (Heinemann, £7.99) looks at a shop sign a second time to find it says "Watch", not "Witch" Repair after all. So how come the odd lady behind the counter can make broken watches play tunes, and ordinary television sets get 36 channels? She conjures up friends for Katie at her new school, too — or does Katie do that for herself?*

Equally enjoyable witchcraft is to be found in Anne Lake's fast-paced **The Box that Joanne Found** (Oxford, £8.99). Both books will suit girls of eight and up.

The outstanding Jacqueline Wilson needs no magic in **Double Act** (Doubleday, £8.99) to resolve the conflicts between identical twins Ruby and Garnet, and between them and their father's long-suffering girlfriend. *Only time and the painful process of growing up can do that in this hilarious tale which contains dark notes that ring very true. For nine years upwards.*

Walker "sprinters" are an excellent series for six-to-eight-year-olds who are shakily moving into "proper" books. One of the best is Tony Wilkinson's **Hector the Rat** (£2.99). Hector cleans his room from top to bottom when his mother orders him to dirty it, so he is turned out of the family sewer to seek his fortune above ground.

I'm in love with Jelly Haystack, the star of **The New Dress** by Ivor Cutler (Bodley Head, £8.99) because, despite its simple domestic setting this is a genuinely original picture book for the under fives. Claudio Munoz's drawings contrasting Jelly with her mousy hair, and her graceful, blonde mother are touching and treasurable.

Did Dr Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel) really intend to publish **Daisy-Head Mayzie** (HarperCollins, £6.99)? The manuscript was found by his widow after his death, and it is a poor thing. The drawings are bland, the rhymes rotten and the story feeble — a sad memorial to the creator of *The Cat in the Hat*, who is here reduced to a superfluous narrator.

By contrast, nearly 100 years after its first publication, Kenneth Grahame's **The Reluctant Dragon** (Methuen, £8.99) stands the test of time well. Modern children will pick up the dated language and concepts — "'So glad to meet you, St. George,' began the dragon rather nervously..." — better than many adults would believe. For ages nine upwards (or to be read to younger children), and with original drawings by E.H. Shepard.

SARAH JOHNSON

The Times Bestsellers

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5	TELL ME THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE **W.H. Auden** (Random)	£3.99
6	WILD SWANS **Jung Chang** (HarperCollins)	£12.99
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8	THE ILIAD **Homer** (Penguin)	£19.99
9	THE WASTELAND **T.S. Eliot** (HarperCollins)	£7.99
10	PETER COOK ANTHOLOGY **Peter Cook** (Laughing Stock)	£7.99

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2	THE SEVENTH SCROLL **Wilbur Smith** *(Macmillan)*	£15.99	0	1
3	BACK IN BUSINESS **Michael Barrymore** *(Hutchinson)*	£14.99	9	2
4	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Gollancz)*	£14.99	4	2
5	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£16.99	3	11
6	THE INFORMATION **Martin Amis** *(HarperCollins)*	£15.99	2	3
7	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Cape)*	£18.99	6	10
8	HEMINGWAY'S CHAIR **Michael Palin** *(Methuen)*	£14.99	1	2
9	SHARPE'S BATTLE **Bernard Cornwell** *(HarperCollins)*	£14.99	0	1
10	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS **Graham Hancock** *(Heinemann)*	£16.99	0	1

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As Ian Fleming's gold-plated typewriter goes under the hammer, **Joseph Connolly** meets the owner of Britain's largest collection

You, too, could be Goldfinger

On May 5, Christie's is auctioning Ian Fleming's gold-plated Royal typewriter, and the puns are already coming thick and fast – "Gold Fingers", "The Man With the Golden Keys" and so on.

The machine was commissioned by Fleming in 1952 from the American Royal Typewriter Company, at a cost of $174, before he had completed the manuscript of his first James Bond novel, *Casino Royale*. It has remained in the family since his death in 1964, and, it is said, all 13 of the subsequent Bond books were typed on this sleek and gleaming machine.

Rather tellingly, *Christie's* has not placed the lot (estimated at £5,000 to £8,000) in a sale of "Scientific and Medical Instruments, Tools and Other Apparatus" — the usual vehicle for typewriters, early adding machines and the like — but in a sale of "Modern First Editions", which also features a first edition of *Casino Royale* (estimated £400 to £700). The reason is that, while many Bond collectors (particularly American) would be thrilled to own this machine, no typewriter enthusiast would be remotely interested.

The finest and largest collection of typewriters in Britain belongs to Bernard Williams, who says: "The dedicated collector wants something that is unique mechanically, not by virtue of association. Nothing as late as 1952 could conceivably be of interest. A few quirky machines were made up until the 1930s, but in general my cut-off point is about 1910." As to the gold-platedness of the Fleming typewriter, Mr Williams already has such a thing: "A Blickensderfer, American, built in 1900. It is gold-plated and immaculate. A one-off."

Mr Williams, who is retired, and worked for many years in the typewriter industry and other forms of mechanical engineering, says: "The reason that there is little interest after 1910 is that by then few significant advances, apart from electrification, were left to be made. About this time, three market leaders emerged from hundreds of pioneering contenders — the American companies Underwood, Remington and Royal. Underwood was soon making up to five million single models, so mechanically, and physically, all typewriters were beginning to look the same."

Although attempts were made to create a typewriter as early as 1725, the first generally recognised commercially produced machine was by Sholes & Glidden (later Remington) in 1874, a pristine example of which is in Mr Williams's collection. "It is highly unusual in that it is gorgeously decorated with flowers, and has no lid — most of the later machines had covers." The presence of the cover is important to the collector, though Mr Williams says they are "a damn nuisance", adding: "I have about 300 typewriters, and I like to display them: so what do I do with 300 lids? Nearly all of them are wooden and prone to worm, so it's quite a problem." This problem is doubled by Mr Williams's collection of 300 sewing machines, which he likes to display. Where do you put 600 lids?

Mr Williams is reluctant to say which brands of typewriter are the most sought after. "The brand leaders — Underwoods, for example — are good value for the beginner: good machines of the 1930s and 1940s can be bought for £20 in places such as the Portobello Road market, west London.

"The serious collector is not interested in anything produced in high numbers. Some oddball machine that was soon discontinued is what we're after; many early typewriters didn't even have keyboards but worked on an index and dial system. Some rare machines only a true collector would recognise as being typewriters."

Two such were sold at Christie's last month, both late 19th century: a Columbia No 2, in a walnut case and with a nickel frame, which was estimated at up to £2,000 and sold for £3,150, and a rare Hammonia, which sold for £9,500, against an estimate of £2,000 to £3,000. "That is about the top price for a typewriter," Mr Williams says, "and it would be paid by only one of the maybe 50 dedicated collectors in this country."

The beginner has a much easier time of it, he says. There are thousands of machines available in the £20 to £100 bracket. Condition is important — even in the cheaper machines — and, according to Mr Williams, 99 out of 100 old typewriters will work, so robust was their manufacture.

"Although the typewriter itself is now an obsolete machine, the business of collecting them is a really new field," Mr Williams says. "More rarities will emerge when people become more aware."

One rarity that he wishes would emerge is the pioneering, Danish, Hansen Writing Ball of 1870.

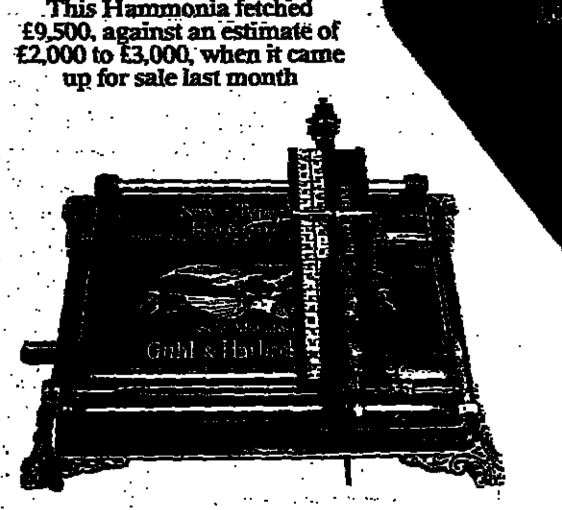
Is there anything else that might tempt him? "Yes, but I can easily define a machine that wouldn't: if it looks like a typewriter from ten yards away, I don't want it."

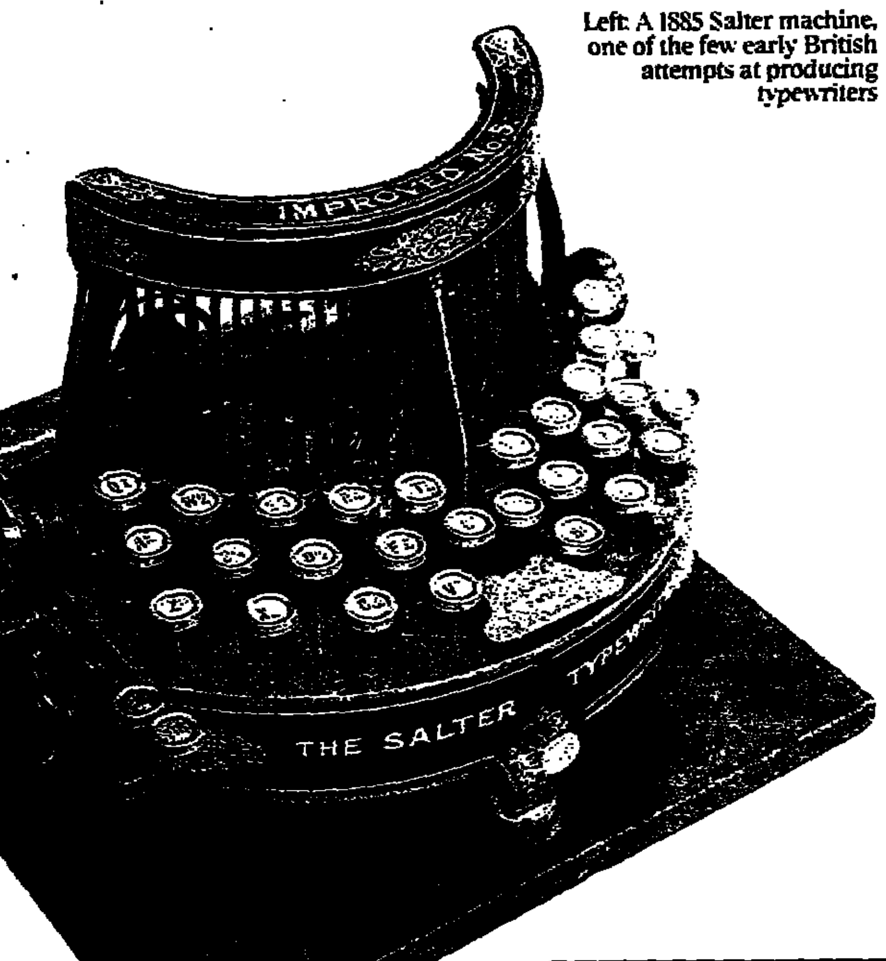
- *Bernard Williams's collection may be viewed by appointment (01283 565858).*
- *The Fleming typewriter is in the "Modern First Editions" sale at Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611) Fri, May 5, 11am. Viewing: Tues, May 2, 9am-5pm; Wed-Thurs, May 3-4, 9am-6pm; Fri, May 5, 9am-10.30am.*

NEWSTEAM

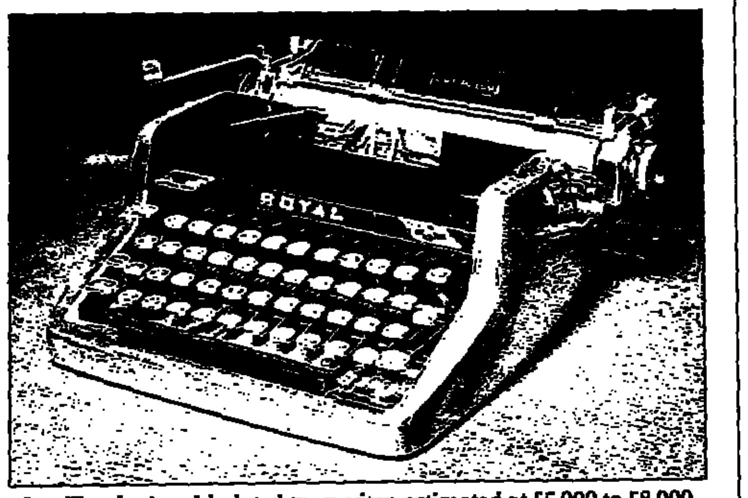
Above: Bernard Williams, a British collector, with an American Sholes & Gidden typewriter from 1874, the world's first commercially produced machine

Below: the Hammonia, a rare, and unusual looking flatbed-style machine, made in Germany in the last century. This Hammonia fetched £9,500, against an estimate of £2,000 to £3,000, when it came up for sale last month





Left: A 1885 Salter machine, one of the few early British attempts at producing typewriters



Ian Fleming's gold-plated typewriter, estimated at £5,000 to £8,000

SALEROOM

☐ **Christie's South Kensington** becomes a wonderland of Disney characters on Monday at its annual sale of animation art. Original cels (transparent acetate sheets on to which the animation characters are painted) are available of all the main characters from the 1951 Disney film, *Alice in Wonderland* (£150 to £3,000).

☐ Old Masters catalogued as "Studio of" or "After" the master in question are for sale by **Mallams** of Oxford at Audley House School, Bicester on Tuesday. A portrait of King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria by Van Dyck is estimated at £3,000 to £4,000; a portrait of Queen Victoria, described as "Studio of Winterhalter", is £2,000 to £3,000.

☐ Highlights at the sale of Dinky toys by **Phillips** at Sherborne, Dorset, on Tuesday include a 1960s London Routemaster bus (£200 to £400) and a tin-plate Rolls-Royce (£300 to £400).

☐ The **Christie's** sale of watercolours on Tuesday includes *Dunkerque from the Sea* by Richard Parkes Bonington (estimated at £20,000 to £30,000) and J.M.W. Turner's *Schwyz, Switzerland* (about £30,000).

☐ A rare 18th century Channel Island christening cup is on offer at **Bonhams's** auction in Guernsey on Wednesday (£1,000 to £1,700).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

- *Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171 581 7611). Mallams's sale at Audley House School, Chesterton, Bicester, Oxfordshire (information 01865 241358). Phillips, Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne, Dorset, (01935 815271). Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060). Bonhams/Hamptons Martel Maides, Allez Street Salerooms, St Peter Port, Guernsey (0481-722 700).*

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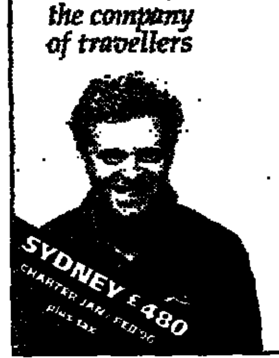

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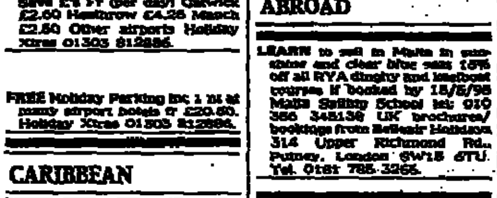

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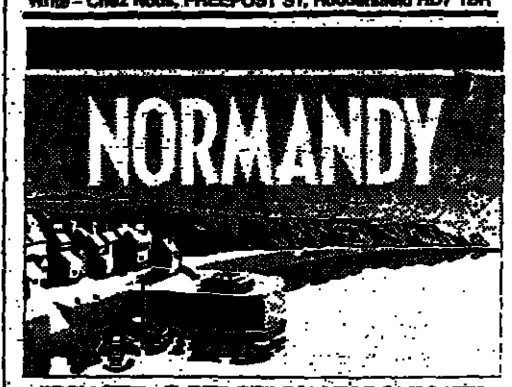

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Ferrets are suddenly in demand from farmers as the greenest way to keep the rabbit population in check

The ferret, as kept by Eddie Grundy of *The Archers*, is shedding its lowly image and being born again — as a green form of pest control. Now that the rabbit population is back to its pre-myxomatosis levels (the culling disease was introduced 40 years ago), ferrets are being used to keep numbers in check, says Kim Lathaen, president of the National Ferret Welfare Society.

Nets are used to cover the exits to a warren and to catch rabbits as they are chased out by the ferrets. The rabbits' necks are then broken. Ferreters claim that this is the most humane and environmentally friendly way of controlling rabbits. It is also the cheapest; there are no hunting fees and groups take no payment beyond keeping the catch.

The society, whose chief aim is to improve the image of ferrets and the conditions in which they are kept, is not the only ferret group in Britain, but it is the largest, with 1,300 members. It reports a 100 per cent rise in requests for help with rabbit control from farmers, land agents and foresters — and from rail managers, because warrens have been undermining tracks.

But landowners have not always helped themselves, says Mrs Lathaen. "Some of our members lost their ferreting rights when land was turned into wildlife reserves, where field sports are not allowed. Often people coming into the country from the towns don't understand field sports and think that if they leave everything to nature it will all balance out. It won't."

A succession of mild winters is the main cause of the rabbit boom; in some areas rabbits are breeding all year round.

Unlike their main prey, ferrets are not wild animals but domesticated polecats, possibly introduced by the Romans. And unlike some of their relatives — the marten, badger, skunk, mink, otter, weasel and stoat — ferrets enjoy being handled. They can also be taken for walks; the NFWS sells leads and harnesses along with ferret shampoo and vitamins.

Wendy Brett, who co-founded the Essex branch of the NFWS in 1986, used to walk to the pub with Rose, her favourite ferret, draped around her shoulders. "But I stopped when I realised that motorists were looking at my ferret instead of at the road.

"Neutered males make the best pets," she says. "Apart from the females' more common health problems, males [called hobs] are friendlier. Females [jills] are more aloof."

Her interest in ferrets began when she was 14. "My father, who breeds them, brought one home and told me to look after it. For years I fed my ferrets on bread and milk not realising that they eat wild meat such as pigeon, rabbit and pheasant."

Ferrets have in the past been bred for their fur (fitch) and are hardier than mink, being able to withstand much lower temperatures. As a result, there are more ferrets than anyone needs and the emphasis is on neutering not breeding. Mrs Brett, like Mrs Lathaen, has taken in up to 70 unwanted ferrets at a time and lends them out at £5 each.

Mrs Brett and her colleagues put radio collars on their ferrets so they can be traced and dug out if they get stuck in a warren. The day's catch provides a hedgerow meal for both the ferrets and their handlers. "I would never shoot rabbits," Mrs Brett says. "Who wants to eat a rabbit full of lead when they can have a clean animal?"

The umbrella term "blood sports" angers her. "I don't support fox hunting and it annoys me that all field sports are lumped together under this emotive heading by people who don't understand. There have been local councils who have banned ferreting and then had to pay about £500 to have rabbits gassed to stem the population."

Mrs Lathaen adds that gassing is non-selective. "It will kill anything in the hole. People have accidentally gassed their own ferrets."

She is planning the launch of a ferret group in Wales, and is heartened by an increase in the number of young people keeping ferrets.

"People used to keep quiet about their ferrets because of bad feeling from people who don't agree with killing or who don't have the bottle to kill their own supper. Now owners are declaring themselves."

JENNY MCCLEAN

● *The National Ferret Welfare Society, c/o The Gwernan Lake Hotel, Islawr-dref, Dolgellau, Gwynedd LL40 1TL (01341 423057).*

ADRIAN BROOKS

Wendy Brett takes in up to 70 unwanted ferrets at a time then lends them out at £5 each

All those in flavour

I regret to have to tell you that the Empress is no longer with us. Alas, she turned out to be somewhat less than imperial, and more than useless at producing calves. Pity. She was a fine-looking animal and I had great plans for her, especially as her full and proper name was Times Empress, in honour of her association with this newspaper. From the Empress I imagined I might breed a bull so mighty in stature that he would eclipse all others. I thought Times Roman would be a good name for him.

But now it is all on hold; for despite all efforts, the Empress was never able to bear a calf. We started when she was two years old and tried artificial insemination. We saw her come on heat, nuzzle the other cows, and generally flutter her eyelids at anything else on four legs. I instantly summoned the test-tube wizard to perform what was to become a three-weekly fertility ritual. After six months, and a threat from the artificial insemination centre that they might have to bill us for extra rubber gloves, we called it a day. I started to search for a bull.

Fortunately, I did not have far to look. In the next village, a fine Red Poll bull named Steady Eddie was ready, and only too willing. He arrived, snorting and pawing the ramp of the trailer. "Ready, Steady, Eddie, Go!" I shouted, and directed him to his new beau. We waited for happy news. It was not to be. As regular as clockwork, the Empress started her three-weekly swinging of the handbag and winking at the boys, showing she was not in calf. Eddie remained steady and dutiful despite my fears that such failure might so demoralise him that he would be forced into therapy. I was left with no option but to ring the butcher.

But shed no tear for the Empress, for there is a lesson for all of us in what happened next. The butcher rang to tell me the joints of meat were ready for collection. As she was three years old he had allowed the carcass to hang for a full three weeks to guarantee tenderness and flavour. In fact, so delicious did the meat appear that he confided to me that, while cutting and rolling the sirloin, he had taken a slice from the end of the joint, which he then grilled for his lunch. He declared it to be a stunning piece of beef.

The accepted wisdom among the modern, commercial butchery trade is that meat from old breeds of farm animals, like Red Poll cattle, is next to useless. Yet here was a butcher finding irresistible that which his commercial instincts were telling him he should shun.

It is now my belief that our rare breeds of farm animal are on the verge of a promising commercial future. This is good news for conservationists, animal welfare campaigners and lovers of good meat. But is it good news for the breeds? Paradoxically, the more of our rare breeds that end up on the butcher's hook, the better. In order to guarantee a future for these breeds, they need to be of commercial value, and not just exhibits to be viewed at farm parks. They need to be bred in larger numbers to ensure a wide genetic base from which to select the best animals for future breeding.

Luckily, their somewhat primitive constitutions mitigate against their suitability for use in intensive farming systems, and so wider farming of rare breeds is more environmental and animal friendly.

Consumers, too, are beginning to realise that the meat industry is not necessarily on their side, and an initiative by the worthy Rare Breeds Survival Trust is proving a success. Through selected shops accredited by the Trust, of which there are a couple in the West Country and one on the Yorkshire Wolds, it is now possible to shop for a leg of Gloucester Old Spot, a pound of Tamworth sausages, a British White rump steak, or whatever. We buy wine on the basis of where it was grown. Why should the same subtleties of choice not be applied to meat?

As far as this farm is concerned, I am happy to report that our other cow, Bilberry, has recently produced a fine heifer calf. We are seeking a Times-herd name for her. The only suggestion so far is Times They are a' Changin'. Not the easiest name to shout across the meadow, but appropriate I think.

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CARIBBEAN: Some hotels just tolerate children, others keep them happy

Taking the children away

Children aged 4 to 12 play under supervision at the Windjammer Hotel on St Lucia

Elizabeth MacManus with a hotel staff member

Panic in the pre-dawn darkness as weeks of planning dissolve into a mad scramble to get three children up, dressed, fed and into a car without leaving them or the odd passport behind.

One thousand miles later, somewhere over the Azores on a BA flight from Gatwick to Grenada in the West Indies, a small expletive is muttered into a large gin and tonic. A vital bag containing swimsuits, childrens books and games has been left behind. A brief marital skirmish flares and subsides. At least we have got the best seats in the plane. Row 28 in BA's new 747s is well set back from the bulkhead in the no-smoking economy section, allowing a cot to be put up with enough room to stretch out and watch the film in comfort.

The flight is 11 hours with a stopover in Antigua, a long haul for children aged 12 years, 3½ and 22 months. It is 10pm at night, London time, when we stagger into the Calabash Hotel, thankfully a mere 10 minutes from the airport.

Past the reception desk a dining room opens onto a large lawn of tiger grass across which ancient palm trees plod down to the beach 100 yards away. Wild orchids tumble down from a trellis ceiling cleverly shedding white scentless blossom onto the crisp linen of the dining tables.

It is dusk and as the moon comes up we flop onto the beach watching the children paddle and swim in warm water. The sand has just the texture from which spectacular castles can be made. After our last bucket and spade holiday in Devon, which somehow cost £2,500 for two miserable weeks, we had sworn never again. So here we were, on a holiday with the children, sans nanny, and determined that we were going to have as good a time as they did.

The Calabash is a small but quietly grand hotel which has just changed its rules to allow families at any time of the year except February. The 32 rooms are all suites, with sitting room and patio set in a horseshoe of villas around the garden. The beach, which frames a small bay dotted with yachts, slopes gently into warm shallow water that delights the youngest with armbands as much as the eldest with snorkel and flippers. Grand plans to teach Nicholas, 22 months, to swim and Emily, 12, to windsurf evaporate when it becomes clear that all they want to do is mess around in sand and sea. So we let them get on with it and lounge under the thick leaves of a seagrape tree, munch ice-cold watermelon for elevenses, and drink rum-punch in the beach bar at noon.

The children fall upon their food the moment the restaurant opens at 12.30pm. High chairs come whizzing up with half-price portions of fresh fish and locally grown pumpkin, cristophene (a small marrow), butternut squash and avocado, all served with lashings of non-tropical ketchup. And when the sun threatens to burn through the Factor 20, or when the children are too tired to do anything else, the air-conditioned snooker room has a huge video TV on which we put on our own carefully packed Walt Disney classics.

There are no other children at the hotel, but several acres of garden and beach act as a buffer between our trio and the other guests, mostly elderly English gentlefolk with a taste for exotic cocktails and battered copies of Dickens. The best of times are breakfast, which is served to order with freshly squeezed fruit juice on the patio from 7am, the food in the main dining room which is consistently excellent, and the owner, British businessman Leo Garbutt, who has three young children himself and thus made us really welcome. The only aggravation is the mosquitoes: nippy but not malarial.

Grenada, which most people last heard of when the US invaded in 1983 to throw out a violent Marxist regime, is a pleasant surprise. The capital, St George's, is the prettiest in the Caribbean: there are some good local restaurants and the sister islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique are reportedly magical.

After just a week we somewhat reluctantly take an hour's flight north for the second half of the holiday, in St Lucia. While the Calabash does well with young families without seeming to try, the Windjammer Landing, a resort complex on the north coast, tries very hard indeed.

Children from 4 to 12 are whisked away at 10am to be given a day of activities and returned at four in the afternoon. Once the shock of consigning one's children to a day of beachcombing, swimming, boating and party games with complete strangers wears off — ie after the first day — the arrangement works well. Nervous mothers please note: you can check up on your children at any point in the programme.

With five restaurants, four pools and 400 beds all in individual villas, this is a highly organised resort which takes much of the hassle out of a family holiday. There are baby sitters at £3.50 an hour and a decent shop in the hotel from which to stock the well-equipped villa kitchens.

Although the West Indies has long been marketed as a rich man's playground in the European winter, the smart time to take the family is in the English summer, when the Caribbean offers low season rates. Daytime temperatures remain around 80F and, although June to December is the rainy season, all this means is an occasional downpour which rarely lasts more than an hour and is usually at night.

And if you think that nothing can quite match the magic of rock pools brimming with mystery once an ebb tide has uncovered a Devon beach, imagine watching your daughter riding bareback into the sea or playing the drums in a steel band under a Caribbean moon.

JAMES MACMANUS

Fact File

☐ The author travelled with Caribtours (0171-581 3517).

☐ Seven nights at the Calabash on Grenada cost from £1,002 per adult (children under 12 from £545), including breakfast. Half-board is just £20 each daily (£16 for children). A second week is free (excluding meals) between July 2 and October 29, 1995.

☐ Seven nights at Windjammer Beach Resort on St Lucia between April and November start at £776 per adult sharing.

☐ For alternative, budget accommodation try the Rex St Lucian on St Lucia or the Rex Grenadian on Grenada. Prices exclude meals. Child discounts are available.

☐ All the above prices include scheduled return flights from London Gatwick on British Airways.

Where will we go next?

THE NEXT foreign destinations to get the British package "treatment" will be Dubai and Sri Lanka, *writes Harvey Elliott.*

Just over 4,000 Britons visited Dubai and the Emirates last year. Next winter the giant Thomson group plans to carry over 6,000.

The British holidaymaker has become more adventurous and prepared to travel farther, to parts of the world which until now have never seen Union Jack swimming shorts.

Already, scouts from the big three operators — Thomson, First Choice and Airtours — are looking for new hotels which offer good, cheap accommodation with an airport nearby, few health problems and a local infrastructure which is capable of ferrying coach loads of tourists to sample "local village life".

The last destination to fit the bill was the Dominican Republic, which will this year attract more British tourists than Barbados.

So where next? The competing companies all agree that central and southern America, especially Brazil and Costa Rica, are ripe for the big sell, as is Haiti, which adjoins the Dominican Republic and is said to possess some of the most beautiful beaches and scenery in the Caribbean. After Haiti, the scouts believe, will come Cuba, then Vietnam, and virtually the whole of the Far East.

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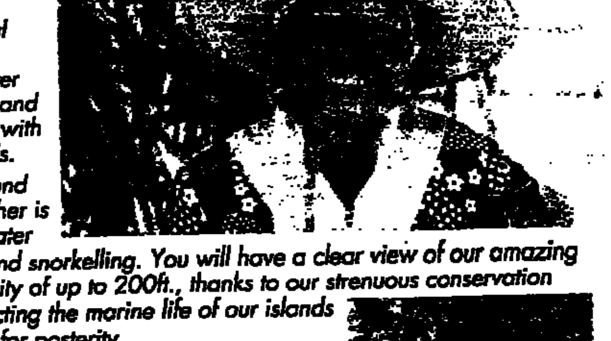

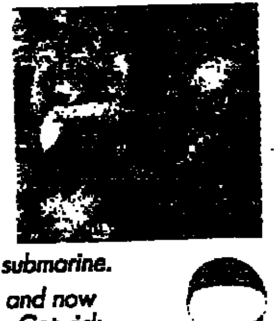

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ROBERT HARDING

The guides in the Royal Chitwan National Park take their elephants down to the Narayani River to drink after a morning in the forest. The vantage point of the howdah affords visitors the occasional glimpse of a rhinoceros or tiger

Trek or treat in the heart of the Himalayas

Everything I had been told about Nepal was wrong. Never has such a small mountain kingdom been saddled with so many clichés. Apparently, Nepal was only for the leftover children of the 1960s, who weave along the hippie trail in search of a personal nirvana only previously found growing in small pots in the back bedroom. Or it was for the committed climber who crosses the Andes in a single afternoon.

What I found was a gentle, small piece of Asia seemingly covered in gauze, in contrast to the primary colours and harsh rural life found elsewhere on the sub-continent. It was gentle despite the almost overwhelming presence of Nepal's trump card — the inhospitable Himalayan range that, wherever you go, forms a majestic backdrop of major league scenery.

If you are venturing long haul, but prefer a sanitised destination, linger only long enough in chaotic, dirty, Kathmandu to visit Durbar Square, with its ancient palaces, temples and stupas, the monuments to Nepal's long history as a crossroads between India and Tibet.

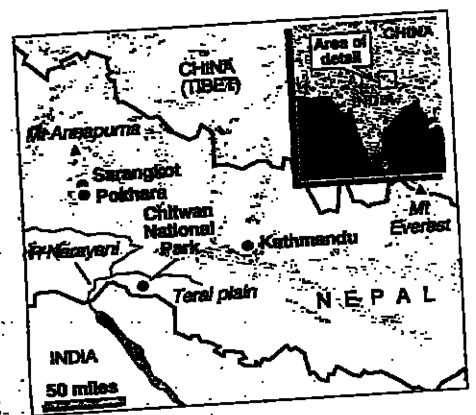
Then head for rural Nepal, where visitors who know nothing of Woodstock can camp high up on a mountain ridge and search for rhinoceros and tiger on elephant-back on the Terai plain.

Kathmandu still carries the legacy of dollar-a-day hippy dormitories, but the city has a number of five-star hotels which are often used as launchpads to the country's interior. Hence the common sight of dishevelled guests in "Tibet Trek" T-shirts and walking boots weighing more than their luggage entitlement, who mill in the hotels' immaculate public rooms.

Don't bother to pack the Versace and Chanel No 5 in anticipation of a sophisticated nightlife — there isn't any, and mosquito repellent will outblast scent. Nepal is about early nights and dawn starts.

From Kathmandu, we flew to Pokhara, where barrels of supplies on their way to a base camp in the Annapurna mountain range littered the landing strip. This looked serious.

Half an hour later and we were to realise how serious. "There is absolutely no way we can get from down here to up there", protested our metropolitan group of trekkers as we gazed at our own small Himalaya, 2,000 feet seemingly vertically up to our overnight camp at Sarangkot.



However, closely monitored by our Everest-experienced Sherpa guides, we scrambled up steep paths and ambled through fertile farming hamlets. We stepped smartly aside as a camp, luggage, kitchen and food packed in giant wicker baskets on the backs of a dozen Sherpas zipped past at depressing speed.

The monsoon had left the countryside lush and green: from the dark hills rising up from still lakes to the pale paddy fields terracing the side of the valley below. We trudged into Sarangkot as the sunset dyed the mountain peaks crimson above the clouds.

But what climbs up must get down. This is tricky when the monsoon has obliterated what passes for paths. Giddy with the previous day's triumphant ascent, we leapt confidently on to rickety stone walls to negotiate our way between, on the one hand flooded paths and, on the other, a sheer drop to oblivion through the cloud beneath. And we got stuck halfway, and had to be rescued by the ever-vigilant Sherpas.

Unless you are visiting Nepal for the single purpose of climbing to high altitudes — and much higher, longer, tougher treks can be arranged — do visit the plains and forests of the Royal Chitwan National Park, which was established in 1973.

The road south to Chitwan is a narrow ribbon of blind Z-bends, clinging to the side of a cliff and overhanging deep gorges and a fast-flowing river. A system of horn-honking from luridly painted lorries belching black smoke, avoids most disasters, although, judging by the wrecked bus dangling over the edge of the drop, there was some room for misunderstanding.

Having inched around landslides and forded rivers, I had assumed that it would be better to arrive than to travel. It was not.

In small wooden canoes, eyes tightly shut and clutching lifejackets, we crossed the swollen Narayani River bordering the Park. Waiting on the other side were Soft Voice and Jasmine Flower, our elephant transport to our camp in the forest.

The Park claims that its rhinoceros population has grown from 250 to more than 400, while its tigers have increased from 35 to about 80. It is also a twitcher's paradise.

Although I correctly identified a peacock, in truth I cannot tell a pigeon from a parakeet, a grave disappointment to our naturalist guide, who gave me his bird book to look at instead. The group giggled.

Temple Tiger camp has no perimeter fence and its 20 large tents are secluded among the forest's trees. Noisy electricity generators, and a camp lit up like the *Queen Mary*, would be an unacceptable intrusion in the forest, so kerosene lamps and torches are issued to visitors.

City folk not trained in woodcraft are forbidden to wander alone after dark without a guard, and are ordered to move lamps outside tents at nightfall to curb the curiosity of rhinoceroses and tigers.

I took this information surprisingly calmly for one who needs resuscitating on spotting a spider in the bath. Now I was contemplating a tiger making house calls at midnight — and bird-watching at dusk in a forest where large mammals were apt to charge, knowing my sole protection was our guide's stout wooden stave and book on ornithology. (Only the anti-poacher patrols carry guns.)

The best time to see tiger is during February and March when local villagers cut down the tall grass. Chitwan refuses to lay bait, thereby reducing tiger to an undignified — and lazy — sideshow for tourists. We only saw fresh paw prints 100 yards from camp. But we did see rhinoceroses.

At first light we were making stately progress rocking on the backs of our elephants as they bulldozed their way through vegetation higher than their eye, and covering us with the white down from the giant ostrich feathers of grass which made the elephants sneeze.

Suddenly, soft vibration from their stomachs warned of danger close by. The familiar prehistoric shape of a rhinoceros loomed ahead then immediately spun away, crashing through the undergrowth. We followed in the elephant equivalent of hot pursuit, creeping forward, the elephants gently vibrating, circling our quarry which was snorting somewhere ahead.

High on the howdah we felt our eyebrows shoot up as the elephants barged blindly into dense undergrowth where no tourist had been before and was unlikely to get far now, especially if a rhinoceros stood in the way.

But he slipped the net, the violent thrashing of vegetation plotting his escape. It did not matter much; we enjoyed the timeless silence plodding along the river bank or beneath the forest canopy, and in Nepal there is always another tent, another dawn, another adventure.

Fact File

☐ The writer was a guest of Royal Nepal Airlines and Cox & Kings (Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place, SWIP 1PH, 071-873-5000) and stayed at Hotel Soaltee Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Kathmandu, Fishtail Lodge in Pokhara and Temple Tiger Wildlife Camp in Chitwan National Park.

☐ Cox & Kings has a 13-day Royal Nepal tour which includes four nights in Kathmandu, a three-day trek and three nights in Chitwan National Park. Cost: £1,835 between October 1 and November 30; £1,795 between December 3 and 15.

☐ Cox & Kings also offers extensions: the seven-day Nepalese Wildlife tour including three nights in Chitwan National Park (£1,075); and a six-day Nepal Extension using Kathmandu as a base (£655).

☐ Royal Nepal Airlines return economy flight from Gatwick to Kathmandu costs £735

☐ Indian Airlines or Royal Nepal Airlines economy return from Delhi to Kathmandu costs £177

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In the ever-expanding world for the tourist, where once inaccessible sights are now commonplace in tour operators' brochures, it is refreshing to still be able to offer the genuine traveller the chance to visit untouched, unhurried and uncommercialised places. Such a gem is the old Dutch Hill Station of Bukittinggi on Sumatra.

Bukittinggi is situated just south of the equator, yet because of its altitude the weather is cool and sunny. The countryside is breathtakingly beautiful, the local Minang people are charming and their culture fascinating – but what now makes a visit special is the Hotel Pusako, built in local style in gardens that blend beautifully into the dramatic mountain backdrop.

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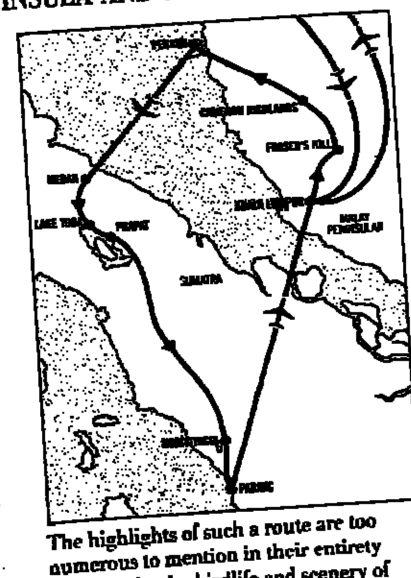

The highlights of such a route are too numerous to mention in their entirety but include: the birdlife and scenery of Fraser's Hill, the plantations and sophisticated mountain resorts of the Cameron Highlands, the mix of colonial and Chinese styles in Penang's capital of George Town and Lake Toba, the largest lake in South East Asia. The itinerary is likely to appeal to seasoned travellers seeking a journey in the East away from the main tourist trails and wishing for something a little different.

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GREECE: **Sally Baker** learns to windsurf and sail off the coast of Zakynthos

At home among the buoys

There were three men in a boat — the consultant urologist, the QC and me. (There were four actually, and two of us were women, but let's not spoil a tale.)

The boat was a Wayfarer, and we were taking part in a race off a Greek island, and — this is the point — I had *never sailed before*. But just a few days after arriving at the Peligoni Club on Zakynthos, I had the sun in my face and salt spray on my lips and the jib sheet in my hand, and I was loving every minute. Until we had to gybe, took a lot of water on board, and crossed the finish line a shameful third, singing *What Shall We Do With The Drunken Sailor* and pumping like mad. "Lovely flow," murmured the urologist approvingly.

Arriving at Peligoni is like arriving at a new school mid-term. All the other chaps were drinking in the bar or lunching in the shade of the verandah in various stages of undress and sobriety, talking and laughing, studying the notices on the board for the day's activities, dashing purposefully to "beginner's windsurfing" or "Laser tactics" or "rock jumping with Colin", signing up for "Vanessa's monastery walk" or "Pictionary marathon".

"Everyone out to the pontoon for water polo," yelled a deeply tanned girl — staff or guest, it was impossible to say. A young man armed with goggles and snorkels led a gaggle of laughing children to a dinghy. We new boys and girls stood around uncertainly on the verandah of the clubhouse, shifting from foot to foot, until we were rescued by a kindly staff member, who discerned our beginner status by our pallor.

And just like school, by day two we were in with the in-crowd, yelling and dashing and lounging with aplomb: and by the following week's changeover day we were positive bullies, looking forward to lording it over the apprehensive, pale newcomers.

Peligoni is the five-year-old brainchild of John and Vanessa Alexander, who abandoned the London rat race to indulge their twin passions for sailing and Zakynthos. Accommodation is in a dozen or more houses and cottages scattered on the hillside behind the clubhouse. All are individual, of hugely varying antiquity and size, some owned by the Alexanders, some owned by British friends they enticed out there to share the fun, some Greek-owned. A few are within walking distance of the club, but most require a hire car.

The Alexanders are enthusiastic and informal hosts, finding time to look after guests while raising their three small daughters on site.

But the main business of the day at Peligoni is water sports, and while the brochure lulls you into a false sense of security by promising that participation is entirely voluntary, the glitter of sunlight on azure sea exerts a dangerous desire in even the most committed landlubber to be on or in the warm, clear water, rather than gazing at it from an umbrella-shaded sun lounger below the club house.

Peligoni currently boasts a shoal of surf boards and a sailing flotilla consisting of the Wayfarer, a fleet of single-handed Lasers and Toppers, and two Hobie catamarans. Old hands are free, after checking with a staff member, to help themselves; absolute beginners have nothing to fear. I can vouch for this. The sailing and windsurfing coaches hold simulator and theory sessions before anybody starts to get wet; there are plenty of life jackets to go round; rescue boats are out on the water for as long as the guests are; and when you do capsize your Laser or fall off your board, it is a positive pleasure to be in the water.

The calm of the morning is usually the time for waterskiing and kneeboarding; around lunchtime the northwesterly wind starts to pick up strength, and the sailing can begin in earnest.

By way of a break from life on the ocean wave, Vanessa takes small parties for glorious evening walks in the rugged hills at the island's northern tip. Pausing to smell the scent of basil, fennel and thyme hanging on the still evening air, she points out the best places to pick wild asparagus, or to harvest almonds and walnuts, arriving with the setting sun at the ruins of a clifftop monastery. At this point she conjures up bottles of wine and beer, and tubs of feta cheese and olives from cold boxes, before leading her dusty convoy back to the club for a late supper.

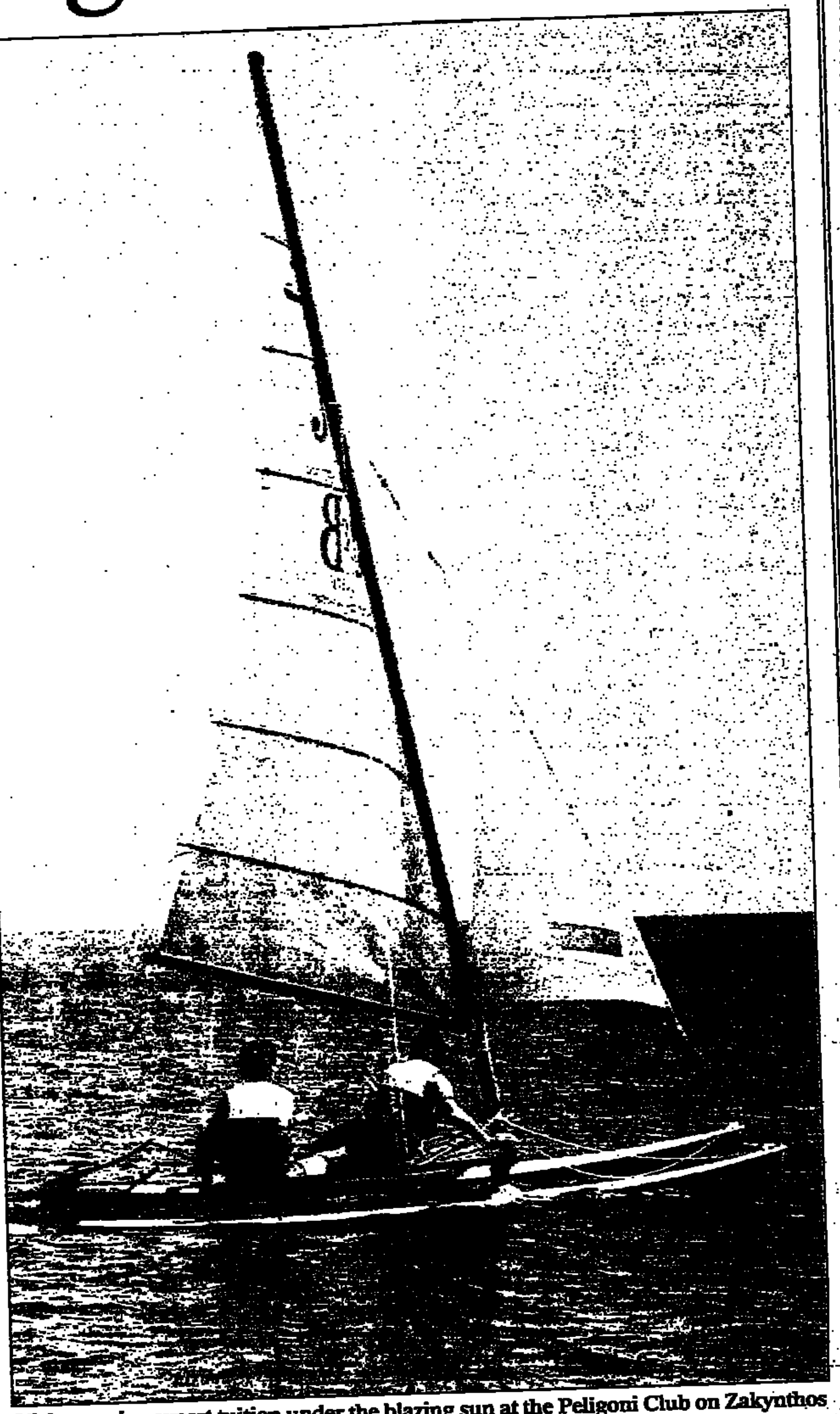
And, of course, there is the rest of the island to explore, from the deserted, rocky coves of the north to the crowded package-holiday resorts and sandy beaches of Lagana bay in the south. But I have to confess that, apart from driving west to Kampi to watch an oxblood sunset from the clifftop, and south to Alykes and Zakynthos town to see if the beach resorts appealed (they didn't), we stayed faithful to Peligoni.

When Mike is offering a dinghy trip to snorkel in the dazzling iridescence of the blue caves just up the coast, and Colin is volunteering to take the youngsters off for rock-jumping, and Pete is chalking up the menu for the evening barbecue, and Chris is rigging the Wayfarer, and Jon is asking if anyone wants to waterski — I'm just a girl who can't say no.

Fact file

☐ The author was a guest of the Peligoni Club (brochure and details from UK booking agent Tarific Holidays, PO Box 88, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 7DP; brochure line 01243 513661, bookings 01243 511499).

☐ The cost of a two-week stay per person ranges from £540 (June) to £950 (August), based on four people sharing a house, including all flights, car hire and unlimited use of club facilities. A car is not essential if staying in cheaper studio accommodation.



Visitors enjoy expert tuition under the blazing sun at the Peligoni Club on Zakynthos

Let's save our wilderness too

PETER HUGHES

TODAY is Earth Day, at least it is in the United States; but then as the Earth is about as international as you can get, it is probably Earth Day here, too.

On this day for 25 years now, middle America has come off its stoops and out of its suburbs to raise banners and take to the streets in solidarity against the violation of the American wilderness, or what is left of it. Compared to Europe, let alone Britain, that is certainly quite a lot.

Yet here in middle Britain we don't so much as lift a pen for a letter to the editor until the chain saws are running and the graders have peeled the first scalp from the country. Even then we are all too inclined to leave it up to someone else.

In this country there is a protester class just as there are classes for chatterers, managers and property owners, never mind anything so fundamental as a proletariat and bourgeoisie. It is only when Surrey twin-sets appear on a march against pit closures, or little old ladies picket ports exporting livestock, that a demonstration receives any real attention. Unless, of course, it turns violent, in which case it merely confirms everything we expected of protesters.

Even that errant teenager, Kate Aldridge, has taken to protesting against a motorway in *The Archers*.

Goodness knows there is enough that needs stopping — the destruction of England's moorlands will do for this month. Threatened simultaneously by the decline and distortion of traditional farming through indiscriminate subsidies and by the inundation of cars and hikers, they are among our wildernesses. With the summer tourist onslaught about to start, now is the time to recall the reasons why so many wish to visit them and why such country should be preserved.

These are exactly the places which could benefit from an Earth Day here. Let's celebrate them now, before the next quarry or motorway or ill-considered car park makes it to a planning application. So let's have a day when we inform ourselves of the uniqueness of these areas, and of their wildlife and the people who inhabit them, without waiting for the bulldozers to mobilise the many protesters. The more people who understand why such places are precious, the less chance there is of anyone being called on to have to save them.

The manifesto for such a movement has just been published. *The Moorlands of England* (Key Porter Books, £14.95) analyses the ancient chemistry of geology, history, ecology and society that have made areas like Dartmoor, Exmoor, the Peak District and the Yorkshire Dales so distinctive. Adam Hopkins's erudite commentary and Dudley Witney's romantic photographs evoke some of the landscapes that define the English countryside.

I suppose the book would be classified as coffee table material, but it makes a timely point.

In the meantime, have a happy Earth Day.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

SINDONOLOGY

(c) The study of the Holy Shroud of Turin, in which the body of Christ was reputedly wrapped, but which has now been demonstrated by carbon-dating to be medieval. *Sindon* is the late Greek for a shroud. "By the start of the Second World War the Shroud had been studied more closely than for all its previous history. The investigation assumed the stature of a separate discipline and was given a name, sindonology."

SPAULTY

(a) Dry and brittle, East Anglian dialect, also *spoalty* and *spoulty*. *Rudyard Kipling, Puck of Pook's Hill*, 1906: "Did he promise me a set of iron cramps or ties for the roof? They never came to hand, or else they were spaulty or cracked."

TRINKHALLE

(a) A place at a spa where medicinal water is dispensed for drinking; a pump-room. Also, an establishment at which (alcoholic) drink is served, a refreshment stall. From the German "drinking-hall". "Chalice was waiting in the trinkhalle in an aura of stale tobacco smoke and beer."

UPSARA

(c) A celestial nymph, one of the wives of the Gandharvas (heavenly minstrels), in Indian mythology. From the Hindi *apsarā*, Sanskrit *apsarās*. Rudyard Kipling, *Barrack-Room Ballads*, 1892: "Above the dark Upsaras flew, beneath us plashed the blood."

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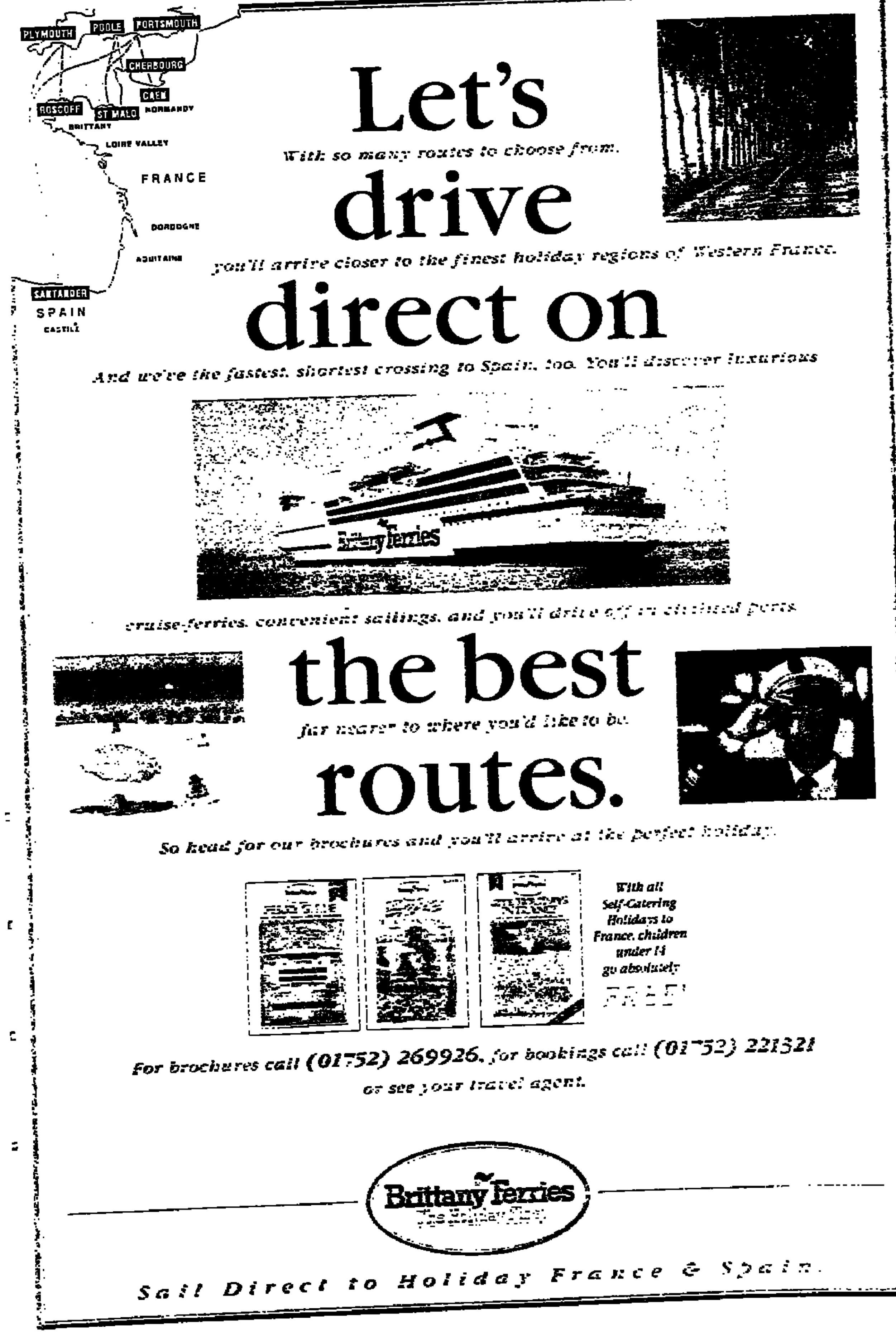

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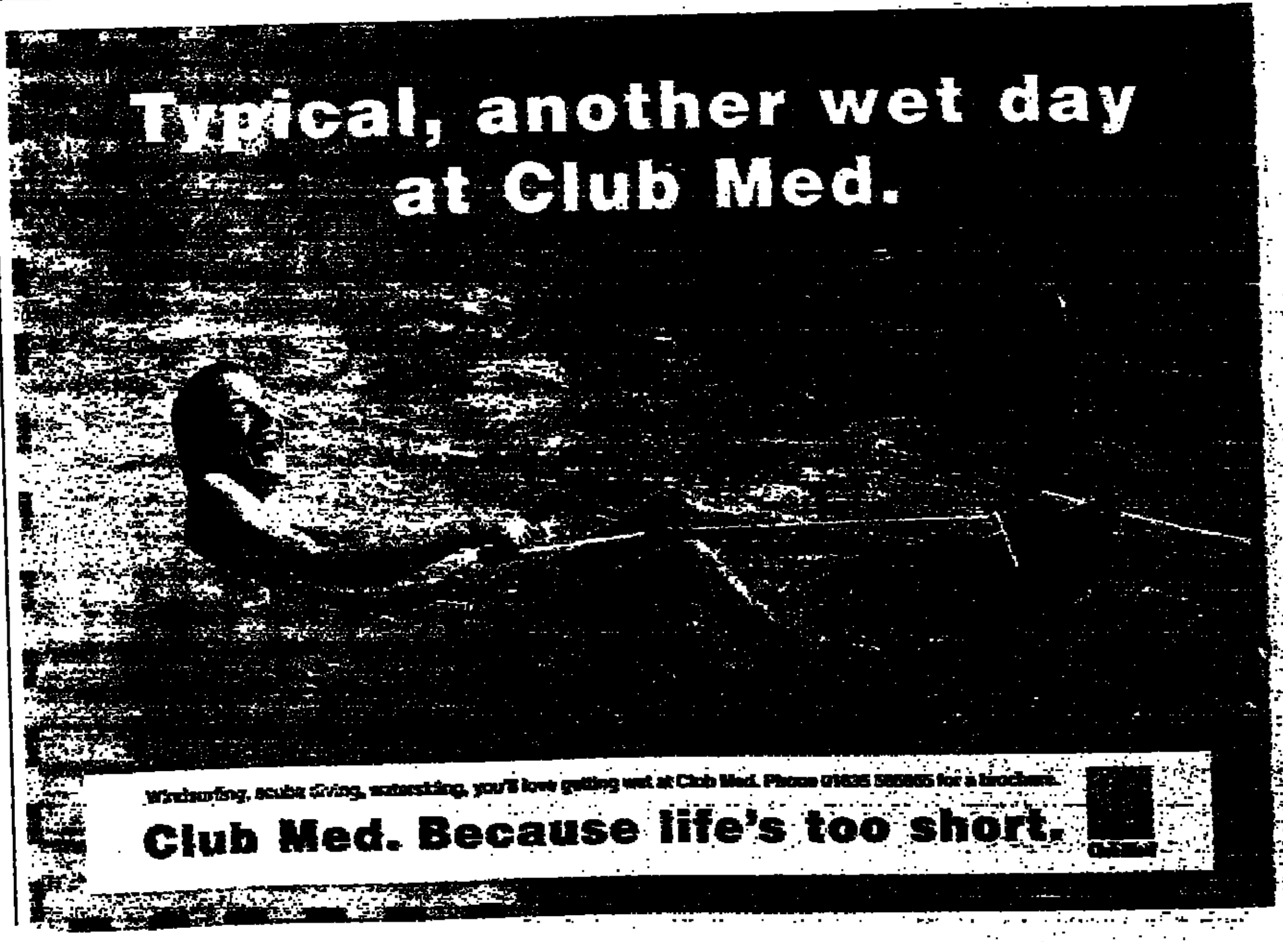

Typical, another wet day at Club Med.

Club Med. Because life's too short.

هكذا من الاصل

WEEKEND RETREAT: Escape from the rigours of city life to the simple pleasure of quiet contemplation

Farewell, cruel world

I pushed the front door open. There was no one about. There was no bell either. On the right, a door opened into what was obviously a chapel — a large room with a few rows of upright chairs and an altar at one end. In front of me another door led into a kind of cloister. I stood uncertainly on the threshold of my first retreat, wondering what to do. Everything was silent — a deep silence which felt different from the sudden, brief absence of noise that I was accustomed to in London.

I had thought for a long time about visiting a retreat, and when I finally decided to do so, I found there was plenty of choice. In spite of, or perhaps because of, the recession, the retreat industry is quietly booming. Some centres offer structured spiritual exercise, but many now see it as their role simply to provide a quiet space in a pressured world. Your religious affiliation (or lack of it) is not important.

After consulting the *Good Retreat Guide*, I decided that I wasn't quite up to the austerity of a Buddhist retreat (shared dormitories and, in some cases, sleeping bags on the ground), or to observing the rule of total silence at some of the Catholic ones. Nor did I want the kind of "non-religious" retreat that sounded more like group therapy.

So I had chosen Winford Manor, an ecumenical centre in an 18th-century manor house with seven acres of land in the Chew Valley, south of Bristol. "A good location," said the *Guide*, "for those who may not want their first retreat to be in a church setting that is overwhelmingly traditional." Winford Manor was certainly not overwhelmingly traditional, as I was to discover.

I crossed the hall into the cloister, pushed open a door and found myself suddenly the centre of attention. A woman wearing a blue dress and a nun's veil came across the big common room towards me, enquiring, with genuine concern, whether I had had a long journey and whether I was tired. She was introduced as Sister Joyce. Someone else produced a cup of tea, then hurried off to find Jim, the "guestmaster", who welcomed me warmly and showed me to a well-heated bedroom looking out over countryside swathed in winter mist.

The room was simple but thoughtfully planned. There was a long desk area under the window, an armchair, plenty of cupboards and mirrors, a good bedside light and a private bathroom with piping hot water. Everything looked not just clean, but lovingly cared for. Someone had replaced the worn fasteners on the pretty duvet cover with hand-sewn tapes.

A small leaflet gave details of meal-times and acts of worship and assured me that, although the members of the community would be busy with their daily prayer and household work, they always had time to talk.

In the meantime, I was free to rest, walk, investigate the library (eclectic), or join the community in the chapel. There was an air of quiet purposefulness about the place, but also a feeling of relaxation. Sometimes I sat and thought, and sometimes I just sat. I particularly enjoyed the evening meditation, when everyone gathered in the warm silence of the chapel at the end of the day.

Winford Manor is a centre with a broad spiritual view. It is a Christian community of about 15 mainly lay men and women, with an emphasis on contemplative prayer and meditation. But at a Winford weekend you are more likely to hear a talk on Taoism, psycho-analysis or folk tales than on anything specifically Christian. Its founder, Canon Peter Spink, also runs popular, if unconventional, "Insight" days — explorations of spirituality which use words, music and "meditative dance".

One of these was scheduled while I was there, and I felt a tremor of apprehension at the prospect. But with Canon Spink in charge, exploring the relationship between sound and feeling, and even joining the rhythmic circle dances aimed at "co-ordination of body, mind and spirit" seemed perfectly natural things to do.

Breakfast and dinner (wholesome country food with a vegetarian bias) are eaten in silence at Winford, which at first felt strange. But gradually I realised that, with no words to hide behind, I became far more acutely aware of my surroundings, of my companions, and even of the food I was eating.

It also made me relish all the more my lunchtime talks with Sister Joyce — a nun drawn to Winford by its "openness" — and with other visitors and members of the community, who ranged from a vicar taking time out from his ministry to a weary refugee from the city.

I certainly came away from this rather unusual retreat with a feeling of sharpened awareness. And, driving home, I found that I no longer needed to switch on the car radio to fill the silence.

Those few days of stepping back from my hectic life seemed to have a surprisingly far-reaching effect — like the ripples from a stone dropped into a deep pool.

> 'I was free to rest, study, walk or visit the chapel'

HAZEL LESLIE

● *Winford Manor, Winford, Bristol BS18 8DW (01275 472262).*

● The Good Retreat Guide *by Stafford Whiteaker (Rider Books, £11.99) gives details of this and many other retreats in Britain and Ireland and some in France and Spain. Costs vary, but the average is £25 to £30 per day.*

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Visitors to Winford Manor in the Chew Valley, south of Bristol, can enjoy long walks in the seven acres of grounds

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A WEEK ON THE NILE

Travellers are flooding back into Egypt but prices have not yet caught up with demand. During the course of 1995 we have secured some extraordinarily low prices for a superior product which have been carried over into 1996. This successful and popular journey, based on the first-class MS Ra Nile cruiser, will now be continued for the majority of this year.

This tour represents extraordinary value for money since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

The MS Ra

Constructed in Britain the MS Ra is a large purpose-built Nile cruiser that can accommodate up to 140 passengers. She is an excellently designed, sleek vessel offering all the benefits of modern high technology. The facilities on board include a large restaurant, lounge, bar, sun viewing deck with a swimming pool, jacuzzi, and a small health club. The cabin accommodation is bright and airy with large French-style windows which open to offer splendid views of the banks of the Nile. All the cabins are fully air-conditioned and have private bathrooms.

Itinerary

Day 1 Depart from London Gatwick in the morning for Aswan. The flight is with Excalibur Airlines and takes approximately 5 hours. On arrival in the afternoon we join the MS Ra moored in Aswan. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 2 Depart in the early hours for Edfu. After breakfast visit the Temple of Edfu, the most complete of Egypt's temples. In the afternoon sail to Esna, a large village on the west bank where the cult of Khnum was created.

Day 3 In the morning visit the Temple of Khnum with its hypostyle halls. Return to the vessel and sail on to Luxor. In the afternoon visit the Great Temple of Karnak, once the religious centre of Thebes and Upper Egypt and was linked to Luxor by a sphinx-lined avenue. Continue to the

Cruise along the River Nile on the MS Ra between Aswan and Luxor
7 nights from £395.00

Temple of Luxor, built by Amenophis III.

Day 4 In the morning visit the Valley of the Kings at Thebes. Situated in a secluded area on the West Bank the valley contains 62 excavated tombs, mostly royal but some belonging to members of the nobility. We then continue to the Mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Deir el-Bahari which is unlike any other temple in Egypt. In the afternoon there will be a guided tour of Luxor Museum.

Day 5 Return to the West Bank and visit two further tombs before returning to the MS Ra and cruising to Edfu to moor overnight.

Day 6 In the early hours sail to Kom Ombo to see the Ptolemaic temple dedicated to two gods, Horus and Sobek. Cruise on to Aswan and in the afternoon visit the High Dam which is over two miles long, 360ft high and affords views over Lake Nasser. Continue to the ancient granite quarries of the Pharaohs to view the unfinished obelisk and on to the Temple of Philae.

Day 7 There is an optional excursion by road to the temples of Abu Simbel (£69). In the afternoon sail by felucca around Elephantine Island and continue to Kitchener Island to visit the lush botanical gardens. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Day 8 Morning at leisure. Transfer to Aswan airport for the afternoon flight direct back to Gatwick with Excalibur Airlines arriving in the evening.

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October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£485.00
November 6, 13	£485.00
November 20, 27	£450.00
December 4, 11	£395.00
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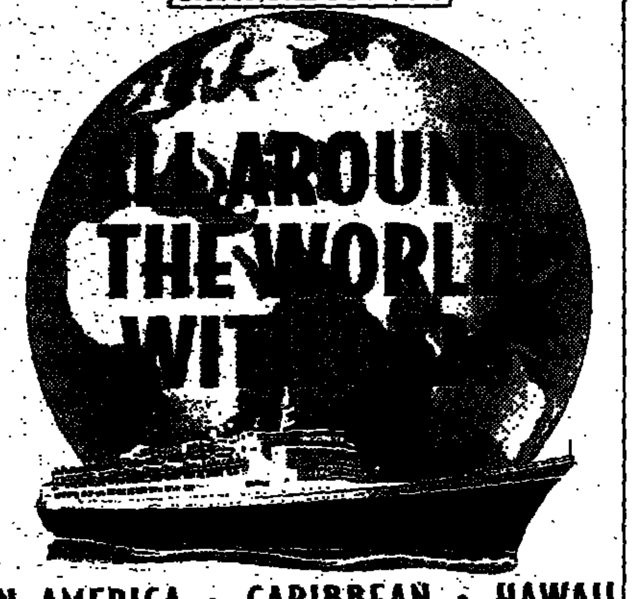

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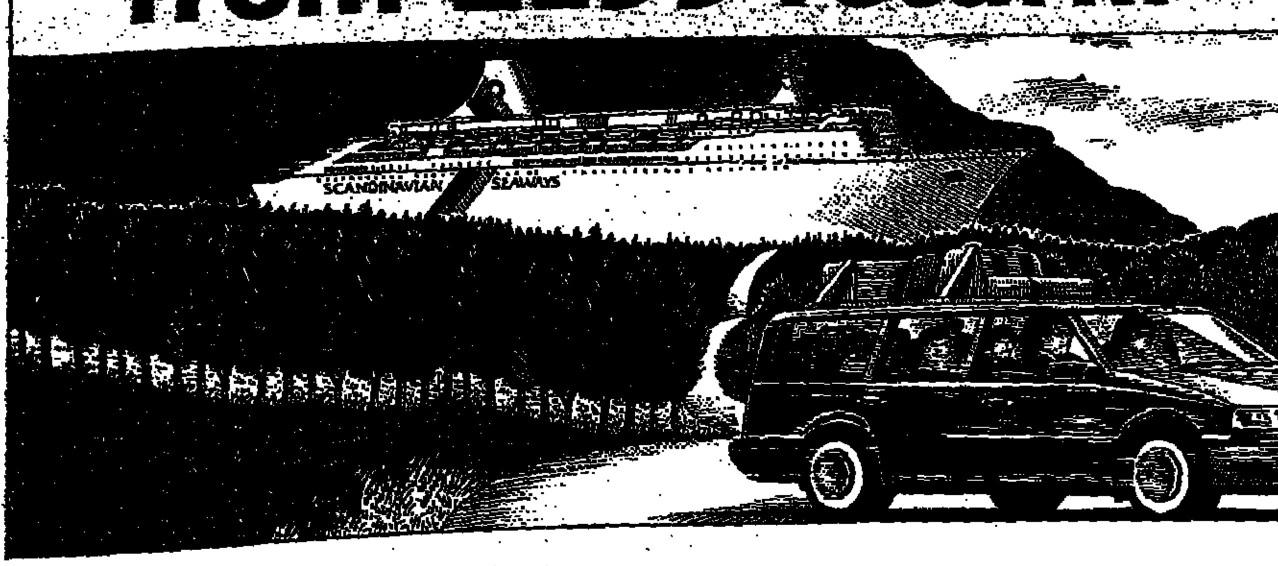

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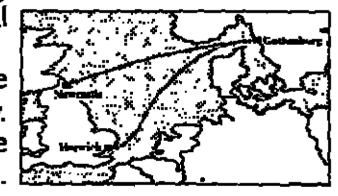

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THEME PARKS: Our guide to the pick of the new parks and rides on the Continent

Exploring the new worlds

Spain's Port Aventura, due to open on May 1, has 258 acres covering five exotic lands. They range from a *Mediterranean port to the Polynesian village, above*

The trump card for Euro Disney lies in its characters, such as *Mickey* Mouse

Several British tour groups will next week have a sneak preview of Europe's newest theme park, the £300 *million Port Aventura park at* Salou on Spain's Costa Dorada, before the official opening ceremonies on May Day (May 1). These groups will be among the first to experience the 258-acre *theme park based on* five exotic lands, ranging from a Mediterranean sea port to a Polynesian village, and white-knuckle roller-coaster rides. These include the *Dragon Khan,* claimed to be the biggest (and scariest) roller coaster with the highest upside-down loop in the world.

But Port Aventura, run by the British Tussauds Group, which already operates Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures and Madame Tussaud's, will not have a free ride in attracting tourists. Just three years after Euro Disney opened, European theme parks are this summer offering *an unprecedented number of new* rides and customer-friendly attractions. Euro Disney may have had a rocky financial start, but its success *in* attracting almost ten million visitors a year for the past *three years has revitalised the* outdoor leisure-attraction business on the Continent.

Parc Asterix, for example, just outside Paris and celebrating *the 25th anniversary of the* cartoon character Asterix the Gaul, is offering a special promotion with some tour operators. It allows children to visit the park free of charge, *while their parents pay Ffr150* (£20). (Information: 00 33 44 60 60 00.) Stena Sealink is also giving away Asterix books to families who book a two-day visit including ferry, accommodation and a day in the park at *prices from* £194 for four.

Euro Disney's response next month will be the unveiling of its Space Mountain ride, a roller coaster which operates in the dark and *includes* two 360-degree loops. It is reported to have cost the financially beleaguered theme park, now renamed Disneyland Paris, £50 million.

But Port Aventura expects to *be the biggest new draw* because of its novelty and the Spanish weather: it is built on the site — about an hour from Barcelona — that Disney rejected in favour of the more inclement climate of Paris. *Port Aventura hopes to* attract about 2.5 million visitors this summer (of which about 350,000 will be British), putting it on a par with *numbers at Alton Towers and* making it one of the top attractions in Europe (excluding Euro Disney).

It is also *likely* to attract *visitors from Majorca* when a new ferry service opens in June linking Palma with Tarragona on the Costa Dorada. The twice-daily journey will *take about three and* three-quarter hours.

Port Aventura believes it can avoid the traps that Euro Disney fell into. It has no *hotels on site,* for example, although there are an estimated 800,000 tourist beds within an hour's drive of the park, and local hoteliers claim to have spent a total of £95 *million on refurbishment.* An entry price of 3,800 pesetas (about £19) for adults and 3,000 pesetas (£15) for children compares favourably with Euro *Disney's new summer prices of* Ffr195 (about £26) for adults and Ffr150 (about £20) for children, although Euro Disney, with 40 attractions, has about ten more things to *do than Port Aventura.*

The attractions at Port Aventura bear similarities to Euro Disney. The Wild West Land echoes Disney's Frontierland, even *down to the* runaway train roller-coaster ride similar to Disney's famous Big Thunder Mountain.

Port Aventura also says that it will avoid *Disney's* mistake *of overcharging on* food and beverages. The Paris park has been forced to cut fast-food prices substantially to counter criticism. This means a burger *and cola, for example,* costs about £4 at Euro Disney, broadly in line with what Port Aventura is charging.

Where Euro Disney will score *over its Spanish* rival is

Obelisk draws in the young

in the traditional Disney characters such as Mickey, Minnie and Donald Duck. It also has a more established infrastructure including hotels, golf courses, camp grounds and a night-time entertainment complex. But Port Aventura will have better weather and is likely to appeal to daytrippers on holiday elsewhere in Spain, rather than Euro Disney's strategy of offering short-break holidays.

However, several UK tour operators, including Airtours, Cosmos, First Choice and Thomson, are offering Port Aventura packages. The park is open every day from 10am until 8pm *(later in the summer)* until November. (Information: 0171-231 5432.)

Euro Disney is open every day from 10am until 6pm and 8pm in *mid-summer.* (*Information:* 01733 335505.) Paris Travel Service, the leading operator to Euro Disney, has just launched its new brochure with prices from £194 per person for two nights, flying to Paris, and based on two adults and two children sharing a room in the Sante Fe Hotel. *PTS* has also, for the first time, *standardised its prices so that* the holiday costs the same from Britain's eight regional airports as it does from either Heathrow or Gatwick.

Asterix has his own park

Apart from Euro Disney and Parc Asterix, France also has the popular Futuroscope Park at Poitiers, 330km south-west of Paris. The theme of *this* park *is developing* new technology, although a new ride takes visitors through a history of French film-making. Some 27 British tour operators, including P&O Ferries, Travelscene and Eurosites, feature this park in their current brochures. (Information: 0181-878 3307.) Holland's Efteling Leisure Park has a *new entrance and children's* maze for this summer, along with a new 18-hole golf course and pavilion. The park, which attracted 40,000 Britons last year, is celebrating the centenary of Anton Pieck, whose fairytale drawings inspired the original Efteling 42 years ago. (Information: 01242 260960.)

Also benefitting from the resurgence in interest in theme parks is Germany's Phantasialand, between Cologne and Bonn, which opened in 1967. The park's newest attraction is Galaxy, a *simulator ride* including a giant IMAX screen similar to the Back to the Future ride at Universal Studios in Florida. (Information: 00 49 2232 36104.)

Germany's largest theme park is Europa Park, at Rust, close to Strasbourg. The park combines themed areas with *high-tech rides. Just opened is* an on-site hotel, called El Andaluz, and Moswin Tours is offering packages starting at *£299* per adult (children *£229*) *until the end of June. (Information:* 0116 2719922.)

Independent travellers to any of Europe's theme parks can *buy* tickets in advance *from Keith Prowse. (Information:* 01232 232425.)

DAVID CHURCHILL

[illegible]

Country	Nr City/Town	Information	Adult/Child*
FRANCE			
Euro Disney	Paris	01733 335 505	£26/£20
Parc Asterix	Plailly	00 33 44 60 6000	£19/£13
Futuroscope	Poitiers	0181 878 3307	£19/£14
Nausicaa	Boulogne	00 33 21 30 9999	£6/£4
SPAIN			
Port Aventura	Salou	0171 231 5432	£19/£15
HOLLAND			
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel	01242 260960	£11/£9
Dolfinarium	Harderwijk	00 31 3410 16041	N/A
GERMANY			
Phantasialand	Bruhl	00 49 2232 36104	£13**
Europa Park	Rust	0116 271 9922	£17/£15
DENMARK			
Legoland	Billund	00 45 753 313 33	£12/£10

** Price vary according to currency fluctuations. ** Children under 1.10m free. Opening times are usually from 9am-6pm (8am-8pm in high season).*

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The power to make fountains jump through the air, to make elephants fly and to conjure up Cinderella in her pumpkin coach. (Pulled by mice, naturally.)

You'll have the power to take the kids back in time with Jules Verne and on a journey into the future with R2D2.

The power to send them on a world cruise, with singing and dancing all the way.

And, perhaps your biggest feat of all, you'll be able to make all this happen without breaking into their piggy-bank.

Our new low prices mean that a whole family of four can stay two days and one night from just £210. The price includes two-day entry passports for everyone and bed and breakfast at a Disney hotel.*

For day-trippers, the price is just £18 for kids and £23 for adults.† And with cross-Channel fares at their lowest ebb, there's no better time to come. To make a booking, or get hold of a brochure, see your travel agent or ring Disneyland Paris Direct on 01733 335567.

Then thrill your kids with tales of how they'll meet their friends and foes. Peter Pan and Captain Hook. Aladdin and the evil Jafar.

Tell them about Sleeping Beauty's Castle, and how you'll take them to the dungeon where the dragon lives.

Don't get carried away though. Even at Disneyland Paris, you won't have ultimate power.

You won't easily find your way out of The Queen of Hearts Maze, and you may well get lost in Alice's Curious Labyrinth. (The trick is to ignore the Cheshire Cat's directions.)

As for making a quick exit from Phantom Manor, forget it. You'll get out when we decide to let you out.

DISNEYLAND. PARIS

© Disney

*Price quoted is based on a family of four (2 adults and 2 children under 12) sharing one room at the Hotel Santa Fe. Subject to date of arrival and availability. †Entry Passports are on sale at the gate and at Disney stores. Kids' price for 3-11 year olds.

هكذا من الأصل

GAMES

by Raymond Keene

Readers of my daily column have had ample opportunity to enjoy and admire the best games of Sir Stuart Milner-Barry, a major figure of British chess who died last month. Apart from representing England four times in the chess Olympiads and once taking second prize in the British championship, Sir Stuart was also a fine annotator and reporter on chess. In particular, during his tenure as chess correspondent of *The Times* from 1938 until 1945, his commentaries on the great AVRO tournament in Holland were a model of what chess writing should be.

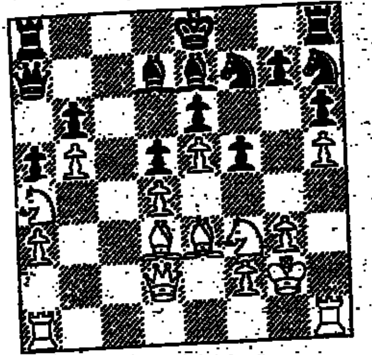
This week, I pay a further tribute to him by reproducing his notes to a clash between two of the titans from AVRO, the Kasparov and Karpov of their day, a game which must have particularly thrilled him. All the notes to the following game are by Sir Stuart, from *The Times* of November 23, 1938.

White: Alexander Alekhine
Black: Jose Capablanca
AVRO 1938
French Defence

1	e4	e6	2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	Nf6	4	e5	Nfd7
5	Bd3	c5	6	c3	Nc6
7	Ne2	Qb6	8	Nf3	cxd4
9	cxd4	Bb4+	10	Kf1	

10 Bd2 would allow Black to exchange queens by 10 ... Bxd2+ 11 Qxd2 Qb4.

10	...	Be7	11	a3	Nf8
12	b4	Bd7	13	Be3	Nd8
14	Nc3	a5	15	Na4	Qa7
16	b5	b6	17	g3	f5
18	Kg2	Nf7	19	Qd2	h6
20	h4	Nh7	21	h5	



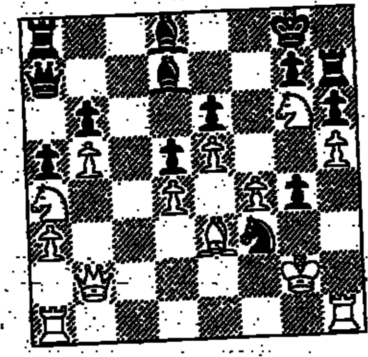
Nfg5. Better prospects of defence would be afforded by 21 ... 0-0 22 Nh4 Rfc8 23 Ng6 Bd8, with the possibility in some variations of sacrificing the exchange by ... Rc4.

But even so, by clearing the g-file, White would have a dangerous attack. The knight on g6 can hardly be ejected by ... Nh8 or ... Nf8, because White might leave it to be exchanged and subsequently sacrifice the bishop at h6.

22	Nh4	Ne4	23	Qb2	Kf7
24	f3	Neg5	25	g4	fxg4
26	Bg6+	Kg8	27	f4	Nf3

If 27 ... Ne4, 28 Bxe4 and 29 Ng6 wins the exchange. 27 ... Nf7 is not immediately fatal, but White again removes the g-pawn and places his heavy pieces on the g-file. There is little Black can do to meet this threat.

28 Bxh7+ Rxh7 29 Ng6 Bd8



Now 30 Rac1.

This preparatory move is essential. If he goes for the knight at once by 30 Kg3, Rc8 31 Kxg4 Rc4 and Black escapes: or 31 Rc1 again, Rc4 32 Rxc4 dxc4 33 Kxg4 and the knight is not even threatened.

30	...	Be8	31	Kg3	Qf7
32	Kxg4	Nh4	33	Nxh4	Qxh5+
34	Kg3	Qf7	35	Nf3	h5

and before White could reply, Black lost by overstepping the time limit.

The position is, of course, hopelessly lost.

By Raymond Keene

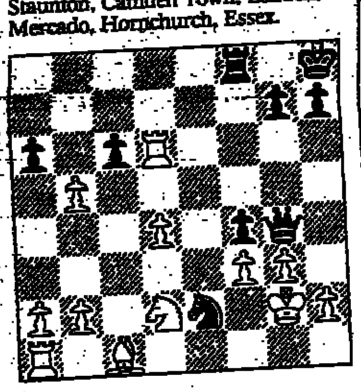
Today's position and all of this week's puzzles are taken from *John Nunn's Best Games*, published by Batsford.

This position is a variation from the game Ljubojevic – Nunn, Szirak 1987. How can Black break through on the kingside in brilliant style?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxe5

Last week's winners: M Davies, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire: P Staunton, Camden Town, London: A Mercado, Hornchurch, Essex.



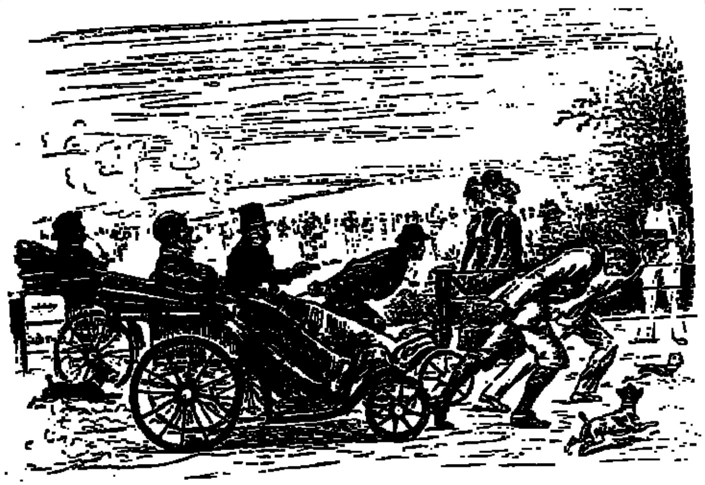
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestion, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 54, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday April 26.



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"As you see, we're both in the process of becoming fully masculine — and we'd like a few tips from you"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Leon Golomb of London NW1

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SINDONOLOGY
a. The study of Chinese
b. Speaking in riddles
c. Study of the Turin shroud

SPAULTY
a. Dry and brittle
b. A wickerwork motorcycle sidecar
c. Beer and honey drink

TRINKHALLE
a. A drinking hall
b. A layer of volcanic sediment
c. A peasant's smock

UPSARA
a. A Finnish dialect
b. A triple dot diacritic
c. A celestial nymph

Answers on page 20

COMPUTER GAMES

REVIEWS of two gaming gizmos deemed finger-licking good, as well as a tirade of abuse for a real stinker, won our Cyberspace Thirteen competition.

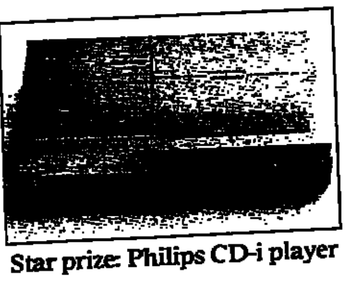
Tim Malleson of Chichester, West Sussex, drooled over his Logitech Cordless Mouseman mouse despite its hefty £55 price tag. "At that price it may seem excessive but this is no ordinary mouse," he writes. "Using Logitech's radio-link technology, it is infinitely superior to its predecessors. A receiver unit plugs into the mouse port and you can then operate the mouse from up to six feet away through 360 degrees.

"The absence of wire means tangles are a thing of the past, and the luxury of not having to hunch over a desk as you point and click; you can relax back into your chair and take things easy."

Ian Muir of Cramlington, Northumberland, was hungry for a trackball of his own after spotting the device on an arcade game. He wrote: " 'Missile Command' first drew my attention to the trackball as a games controller. Playing the game, there was no other way to lay down the necessary barrage to defeat bigger attacks than by spinning the trackball from side to side while firing continuously.

"As soon as it became available for the Atari, I adopted the Alfa-Data Trackball as my default controller for both games and normal desk-top work."

By contrast, 15-year-old Tim Bennett of Ascot, Berkshire, didn't mince words as he trashed his Logic 3 "Tornado" joystick. "At £14.99 it seemed a bargain," he explains. "The name Tornado seemed appropriate as it looked stunning with a pistol-grip handle, twin fire buttons and two-speed auto-fire. It looked as slick as a Ferrari. But it performed like a Skoda. I tested it on several games, including "X-Wing" and "Tie Fighter". The response of the gadget was pathetic; it felt too flimsy and I had to push the buttons right down before they would function even adequately. I have no praise to give the misnamed Tornado; it's appalling and just goes to prove that looks can be deceptive."



Star prize: Philips CD-i player

Star prize in our Cyberspace Fourteen competition is a Philips 450 CD-i player with a video upgrade cartridge and several starter CD-i titles.

To enter, invent a game with home entertainment systems in mind, coming up with a multi-player game for all the family. What could possibly turn a family of couch potatoes into a family of CD-i players? You tell us. The competition is open to all ages and the judges will favour originality. Entries must be highly legible and between 150 and 350 words. Please include your name, age, address and telephone number, and clearly mark the envelope: Cyberspace Fourteen, Computer Games, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The closing date for the competition is midnight on Tuesday May 2.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

UNDOUBTEDLY the most important tool of card-play is counting — counting your own tricks, counting the opponents' tricks, counting their distribution, counting their high cards.

Here is a typical "counting" hand. You are West, defending 3NT after this auction:

W	N	E	S
—	1♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

You lead the seven of diamonds and this is what you see:

♠KJ
♥KQJ62
♦A4
♣10653

West:
♠A106
♥95
♦Q9872
♣A94

The first diamond goes small from dummy, ten from partner and jack from declarer. Declarer now leads a low spade. You to play.

The difficulty with this sort of problem is that taking time to consider may give the game away. It is natural to play low on the spade — after all, the declarer may have a guess. But that is wrong. Why isn't declarer playing a heart? He has responded 2NT to One Heart and so will not have four spades, yet he is playing that suit at trick two. It looks as though the declarer has the ace of hearts. You know that the declarer has the king-jack of diamonds — your partner would have played the king at trick one if he had it. So now you know the declarer has five tricks in hearts and three in diamonds. He is playing spades to bring in his ninth trick.

If you got that far (and the point at which to work out your spade play was before the first trick was turned over), you will take the ace of spades. Now your side has to take four tricks immediately. The only way to do that is to find your partner with four clubs headed by the king-queen or king-jack. You switch to the the nine of clubs (the nine is important), partner takes the trick with his king, and returns a club. South's queen falls on the second round, and now you lead your four of clubs through dummy's 10 x. The full deal is shown below.

North: ♠KJ ♥KQJ62 ♦A4 ♣10653
West: ♠A106 ♥95 ♦Q9872 ♣A94
East: ♠98532 ♥1084 ♦10 ♣KJ72
South: ♠Q74 ♥A73 ♦KJ653 ♣Q8

How do you acquire these counting skills? You have to have a phase in your bridge career where you really do count the tricks and distribution on every hand. The problem is that it is antisocial to do it with people who are not like-minded.

You have to find a tolerant school who match your enthusiasm. But if you give in to the *jou mal mais jou vite* jibes, and get into the habit of just sitting there watching the cards go by, you will not get to the upper levels of the game. Still, your chums will enjoy it more.

This hand is from a recent Camrose match. You are West and hear the following auction:

W	N	E	S
—	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

♠Q63
♥AK32
♦10984
♣Q3

West:
♠AK2
♥85
♦AJ3
♣109854

You lead the ten of clubs, dummy plays low, your partner plays the jack and declarer wins in hand. Your mind should not be on North's bidding (daft to open in my view). Declarer leads the seven of spades and you go in with the king (although ducking is a possible play, in case declarer has 10 9 8 7), your partner playing the two. You continue with a low club, dummy's queen holding the trick, while your partner follows low. The declarer continues with the queen of spades on which your partner plays the five. You win the trick. What should you do?

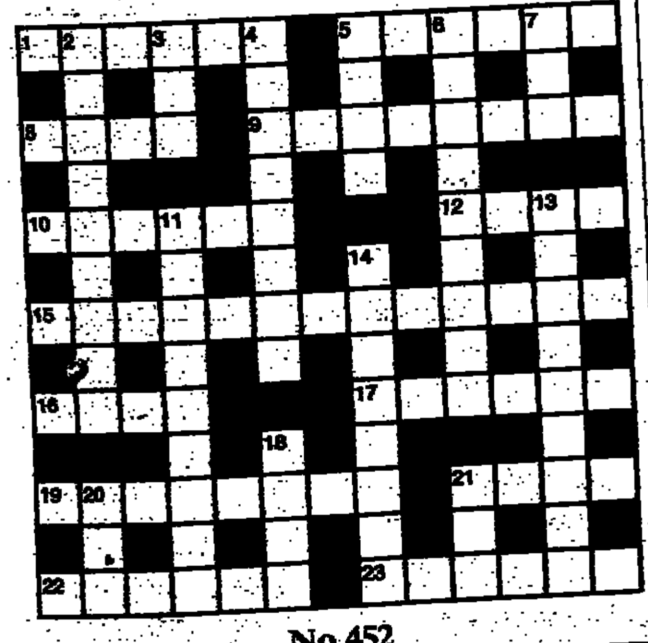
This is another hand which involves counting, this time both declarer's tricks and his shape. It looks as though declarer has J10xx in spades, and at least three clubs. If he has the queen of hearts he has nine tricks. What if declarer has Jxxx of hearts and Kx of diamonds? That distribution can be eliminated — your partner played the jack of clubs on the first round, showing that he had a doubleton.

Hence the declarer must be 4-4-1-4, and so you lay down the ace of diamonds, which is what John Armstrong did for England in this year's Macallan-Camrose match against Northern Ireland. You then take two more diamond tricks to beat the contract. The full deal was:

North: ♠Q63 ♥AK32 ♦10984 ♣Q3
West: ♠AK2 ♥85 ♦AJ3 ♣109854
East: ♠854 ♥J109 ♦Q7652 ♣J2
South: ♠J1097 ♥Q764 ♦K ♣AK76

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: the ten of clubs

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 452

ACROSS
- 1 Other half of Lewis (Hebrides) (6)
- 5 Automatic pilot; six kings (6)
- 8 Fired; ball for putting (4)
- 9 Ecstatically emotional out pouring (8)
- 10 Quickly buy (bargain) (4,2)
- 12 Cut sharply; eat with acid (4)
- 15 Repetitively-named English humorous writer (6,1,6)
- 16 Bullet, bomb supplies (abbr.) (4)
- 17 Cosy covering, esp. for larvae (6)
- 19 Learned people (8)
- 21 Fool; coagulation (4)
- 22 In the head (6)
- 23 Lower (6)

DOWN
- 2 Temple of learning; Pall 18 club (9)
- 3 Creature Pied Piper dealt with (3)
- 4 Bomb fragments (8)
- 5 Worry with teeth (4)
- 6 Of childbirth (9)
- 7 Wander aimlessly; Israelite tribe (3)
- 11 One arguing in favour (9)
- 13 Squadron commander (9)
- 14 Forceful removal (8)
- 18 Avenue; shopping precinct (4)
- 20 Anger (3)
- 21 Baby's bed (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 451
ACROSS: 1 Anniversary 8 Get on 9 Shackle 10 Loom 11 Armagnac 13 Bikini 14 Strewn 17 Disquiet 19 Crab 22 Have a go 23 Alack 24 Deerstalker
DOWN: 1 Angel 2 Network 3 Vine 4 Rosary 5 A la carte 6 Icon 7 Deacon 12 Insulate 13 Buddha 15 Earmark 16 Decoys 18 Saved 20 Baker 21 Gala

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: The Times Guides: English Style & Usage (HB) £8.99, Good University Guide 1995-96, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99 European Parliament - June 94 (HB) £20. The Times Guide to the New British State (HB) £17.99. The Times Maps (Folded): The World 48" x 30" £5.99. Ireland 26" x 33" £3.99. British Isles 33" x 36" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50. The Times Illustrated World History (PB) £15.99. NEW The Times Illustrated History of the World (HB) £26. The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50. Book of Brainteasers £5.49. Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East. Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to: Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

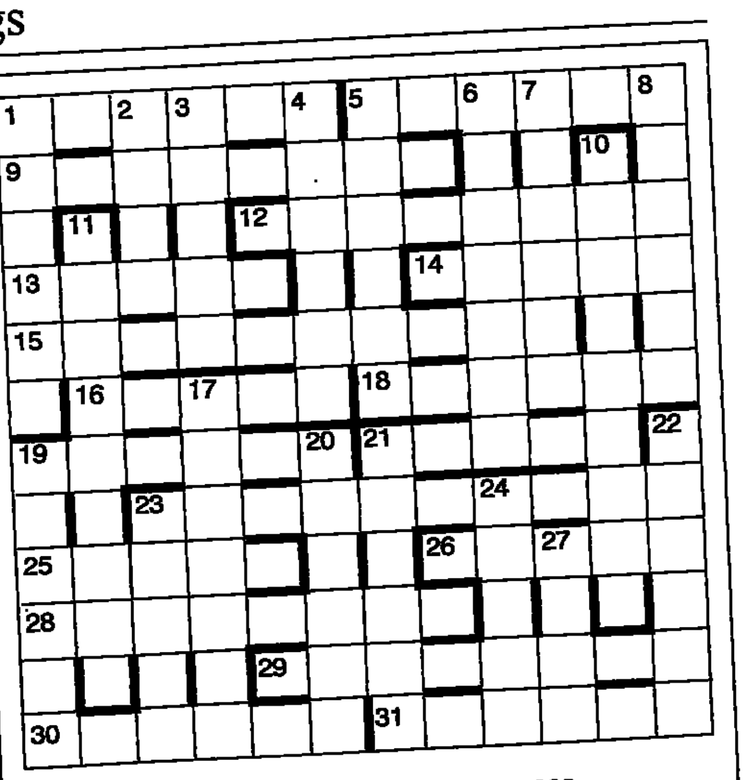
No 3302: Cipher by Noggs

This puzzle uses a number of simple ciphers, which are used to encode both clues and answers. (By "simple cipher", I mean a code which permutes the letters of the alphabet. One such, for example, might encode the word "aardvark" as "mmcetmcf".) One of the "ciphers" is trivial, leaving every letter of the alphabet unchanged, so some of the clues below already make sense. Some of the other ciphers also leave certain letters unchanged; there are too a few cases where two ciphers both treat a particular letter in the same way. Each cipher has been used on the same number of clues, and also on the same number of answers. A clue and its answer are not necessarily encoded using the same cipher; in fact every possible combination occurs at least once.

Punctuation may mislead, in one clue especially. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended.

ACROSS
1. Die krevx oymehjo, iurdos, hx jci Ihu xoo. (6)
5. Xhtajayh xzy aq uvaqeyhv — reetyhqq! (6)
9. Zifrh ha ntilr — vsm kpvh ha ma rz yaf mas'h wrbt rh. (8)
12. Qtwt aunkiao zd mtlyac fgly vtcoar Ikkqi. (8)
13. Wsffz tuf of lobnhaom iuan hk Qyfn. (5)
14. Looking worried, but has first taken an oath. (5)
15. Vckfgrv cgsa tro mcxgl mkc xroacigbao ftqqtzd. (10)
16. Egt uvzphv, Gzsay, iev xzjh-whzvhv zs Elievt ev Jzxwvatrh. (5)
18. Waofq of Kodo? Zyf xhsew-jy nyynhnueeyab huvy nh Ihew jumq, fh csybnohf. (6)
19. Dryox dcb yhu lcivs mo queddos ce dros. (6)
21. Uvhqq ezdnx ayse mngg ei knayknhvhxh uhvmzuq casm jzvre ei Yayhbhm'q gzqs qsajd ei vejd. (5)
23. Dares to scud - thud! Weird. (10)
25. R cfnh qth gvrw aiqvsmtm gtzait cvbrsq xfmrervw tjefnt. (5)
26. A xnqs wh ay smh jexuzyp-ei vzagczpxhy smhqh tzpq - A'x zy egt-izqmaeyht qevs ei ohvd. (5)
28. Jock's cheeses, second-rate, by the bushel, wrapped in something like cow-parsley. (8)
29. Efint vgafh vcafsh az oitnnfit krhp cviirtm cvhfit nhfmtsh. (8)
30. Cloth merchant with flashy car commonly starts to eschew responsibility. (6)
31. Rk vkko qaml gr ibngo Dtre htegrv gccgltlgrv rkgia. (6)

DOWN
1. Lehfj cvs Xlodx yhqo dehsrdrcuhv lahvvouko hwdoe xooruk hvbruo wcedtohe. (6)
2. "Tuaqyn Bsfwuz" ob un nly jygoffofg hk nly xyyq of Thnlyaxyee. (4)
3. Amvwrnuft'n ptvm tsevntm rs ncaahp pvristh. (5)
4. Lesser goddess runs around island. (6)
5. Gl gi gr skqqava skrilgbxlgkr. (6)
6. O luvy ieuzyw xonl luek-esny, bhtynlofg eoqy u gsonua. (7)
7. Xnqaj zijexuzypayr uehsvp: zgse ieggecq jexxey saxh ay taxaynhyte. (6)
8. British soldier Bruce drops cape in salute to emperor. (6)
10. Opbeoxxrcu cw lcudoybd *hus* drdvo cw eoxbold dc Zioou Nrldcerh mowceo aoe ruhikiehdrcu. R vrqo xcyo leybcius tcesx! (9)
11. Grim as paint. (9)
17. Altihfis rntsrdts az eaccas afhnrmt Nafhptsom. (7)
19. Oamarsa km t pkqqd kqo sgld km trlgbxgld. (6)
20. Little signs of illegitimacy blemish psalm. (6)
21. Hkil km mtzcgs mckh fkkqqar ocaii xiao ti ntctsyxla. (6)
22. Jsrrofg ofbymnb of mh-hiyaunovy gunlyaofg, nyf yfmoameofg whmnha. (6)
23. Nuqy bxuat hk xoew jyyb jykhay hfy ghyb hf nxh xlyyeb. (5)
24. Quashing charms nyas. (5)
27. Aohs ce qrsuoj? (4)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3302

NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
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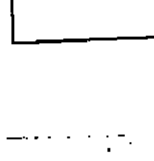
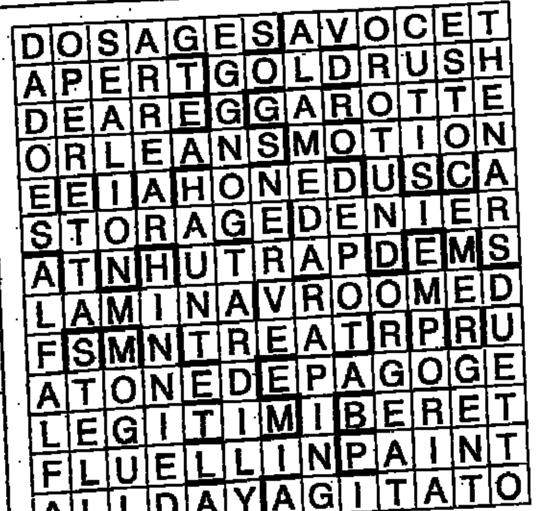
POSTCODE ....



PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3302, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, May 4.

Solution and notes to No 3299: Station by Dimitry

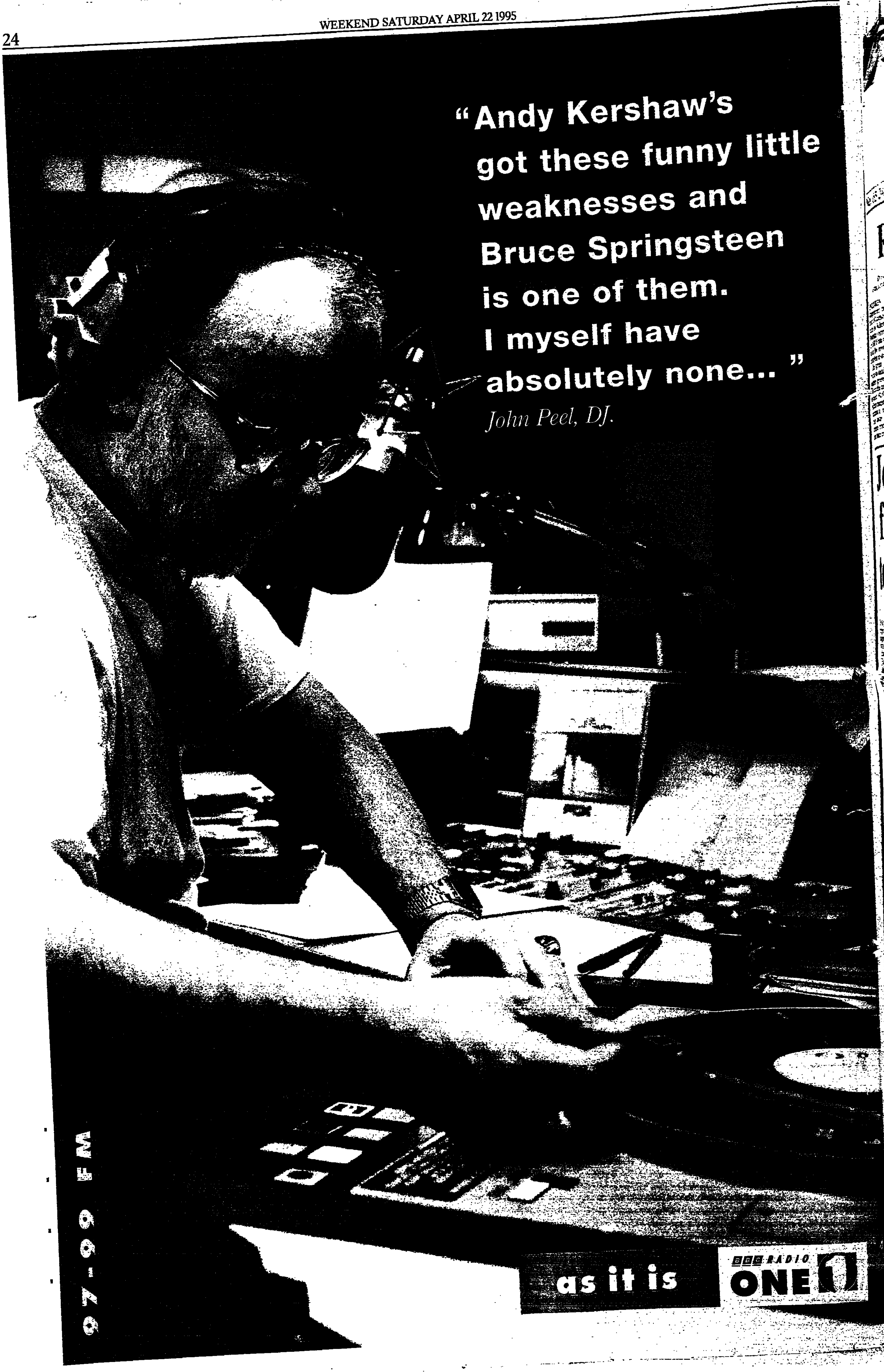


D	O	S	A	G	E	S	A	V	O	C	E	T
A	P	E	R	T	G	O	L	D	R	U	S	H
D	E	A	R	E	G	G	A	R	O	T	T	E
O	R	L	E	A	N	S	M	O	T	I	O	N
E	E	I	A	H	O	N	E	D	U	S	C	A
S	T	O	R	A	G	E	D	E	N	I	E	R
A	T	N	H	U	T	R	A	P	D	E	M	S
L	A	M	I	N	A	V	R	O	O	M	E	D
F	S	M	N	T	R	E	A	T	R	P	R	U
A	T	O	N	E	D	E	P	A	G	O	G	E
L	E	G	I	T	I	M	I	B	E	R	E	T
F	L	U	E	L	L	I	N	P	A	I	N	T
A	L	L	D	A	Y	A	G	I	T	A	T	O

STARTING-POINT

NOTES: The 13 unclued letters, when read by column from left to right, spelled out STARTING-POINT. All 26 clues affected started with a definition (one or more words) of the word POINT. The reading of the letters from top to bottom as TRAIN-SPOTTING could have misled unwary solvers into thinking this was the solution, but it had no demonstrable connection with the clues. The title could have been relevant to either solution.

The winners were Dr P.A.K. Covey-Crump, of Cheltenham. The runners-up were E.M. White, of Newcastle upon Tyne and David E. Oxford, of Hampton, Middlesex.


"Andy Kershaw's got these funny little weaknesses and Bruce Springsteen is one of them. I myself have absolutely none..."
John Peel, DJ.
97-99 FM
as it is
BBC RADIO
ONE 1

هكذا من الاصل